

HTAV strives to improve the quality of History teaching and support its members to flourish through professional learning, networking and peer mentoring. With this in mind, the **HTAV Peer Mentoring Program** aims to bring together History teachers at all levels in their professional careers to create a community of support and expertise.

WHAT DOES THE PEER MENTORING PROGRAM ENTAIL?

The Peer Mentoring Program enables History teachers to meet, talk and share experiences in a casual setting. Mentors offer 6–8 hours of support throughout the year at times that suit you both. Mentoring can be a coffee meeting, Skype, drinks after a conference or event, email or phone call. If your mentee needs assistance at a particular time of the year, they may prefer to use the 6–8 hours of support during that critical time if you are available. Alternatively, you can spread the communications throughout the year. Offers of assistance beyond the 6–8 hours are not expected but can be negotiated privately between the mentor and mentee.

Applications for the Peer Mentoring Program will be accepted during Term 1 with application forms made available on the HTAV website. Mentors will be paired with their mentees in Term 2, or when an appropriate mentee is available. At the end of the year, HTAV will seek feedback on both mentor and mentee experiences. Mentors will receive a certificate to use as evidence for Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, Standard 7: Engage with Professional Teaching Networks.

GUIDELINES

Mentors can provide encouragement and support. Mentees can seek general advice on developing appropriate assessment tasks, delivering course content, planning their year and helping students prepare for assessment tasks.

Here are some examples of questions you may have from your mentee:

'Can you please check my SAC? I'm not sure if it meets the requirements of the subject.'

'How can I differentiate my content delivery for students looking to stretch their capacities or who are struggling?'

'What are the best sources to improve my own content knowledge?'

'How can I help my students prepare for SACS and exams?'

'I feel overwhelmed by work demands. What advice can you give me?'

Mentors are not expected to:

- take responsibility for your mentee's class,
- be available on call,
- create SACS for your mentee,
- know your mentee's school VCE policy,
- cross mark your mentee's SACS (unless you offer, and establish a formal arrangement),
- share lesson plans and classroom resources unless you choose to do so to illustrate a particular approach or skill.

'Participating in the program really highlighted the benefits of having someone to share ideas with.'

Previous mentor



WHY JOIN AS A MENTOR?

We all seek advice from others in some capacity – a quick question in the staffroom, a chat over coffee at a conference or tossing a question to a social media group. Joining the Program as a mentor facilitates these conversations. It will allow you to gain valuable insight into your own History teaching practice, reinvigorate your teaching skills, broaden your professional network, and make a difference in the lives of other History teachers. It is a great reminder of your professional and personal growth and allows you to share what you know.

Please don't let concerns that 'I'm not an expert' prevent you from joining as a mentor. Even a few years of teaching or leadership is a wealth of experience for someone who is starting out.

HAVE CURRICULUM QUESTIONS?

Queries regarding the Victorian curriculum should always be confirmed with the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA). Your best point of contact is Gerry Martin, Curriculum Manager (History and Civics), VCAA at Gerard.Martin@education.vic.gov.au.

LOOKING FOR VCE SUBJECT CONTENT SUPPORT?

Mentors and mentees may also find the VCE Teacher Networks helpful. Contacts for the subject coordinators are available on the HTAV website in the Members Centre.

Have a question about the Peer Mentoring Program? Should you have any queries please get in touch with Michelle Pitcher, HTAV Membership and Events Officer at m.pitcher@htav.asn.au.