Bid to boost general knowledge of students

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To improve students' general knowledge and environmental awareness, Chan Shu Kui Memorial School will introduce a new subject.

Starting from the new school year, the school's junior form curriculum will have "Life and Environment Education".

According to school supervisor Anson Chan Yiu-cheung, the school conducted a survey earlier this year into the attitudes of junior students towards society. Among the 992 respondents, only 42.1 per cent managed to give correct answers to half or just over half of the questions.

Au Hau-fan, who was responsible for setting up the entire course said: "We would like students to apply the skills they have learned in lessons to their daily lives. For example, in the section on family values we would offer some ideas on how to deal with domestic violence."

Chan Shu Kui Memorial School set to start new subject

Miss Au holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Hawaii and is also an experienced educator specialising in course design.

"In the coming school year the subject will only be introduced into the first and second form syllabus because the course itself is still at an experimental stage."

"We are going to look at the feedback from both parents and students before we decide whether or not to extend it to higher forms."

"While it is taught as a regular subject, students will undergo a process of continuous assessment instead of having to face a written exam."

"The criteria for assessment will include their degree of attentiveness, understanding of the themes and their changing attitudes towards the various issues that have been discussed."

Dr Albert So Ting-pud, associate professor of the Department of Building and Construction at the City University, said teenagers nowadays needed to acquire a very broad range of knowledge.

They needed the knowledge in order to earn and maintain a high standard of living and, in particular, to compete with others, he said.

Another guest speaker, Helen Yu Ku Siu-yin, assistant professor of the Department of Applied Social Studies at the Polytechnic University, also had a high opinion of the new subject.

Pioneer move . . . Dr Sylvia Chen Ca-lo speaks of the new subject at a press conference. Picture by DAVID WONG