

15th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We believe that promoting the health and wellbeing of our pupils is an important part of their overall education. We do this through our personal, social, health and emotional (PSHE) curriculum. PSHE covers many topics including all kinds of relationships, physical/emotional health and the skills needed to live in the wider world. The aim of our PSHE curriculum is to help pupils make safe and informed decisions during their school years and beyond.

Relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) is the statutory element of our PSHE curriculum which all schools in England are required to teach. During these lessons, pupils will be able to ask questions, which will be answered factually in an age-appropriate manner. Each pupil's privacy will be respected, and no one will be asked to reveal personal information.

PSHE/RSE is a statutory subject and although parents can withdraw their child from the sex education element, we want to assure parents that our curriculum is taught in an age-appropriate manner and provides pupils with the time to ask questions in a safe environment and ultimately receive factual information, rather than hearing content second hand or via online platforms. In the 21st century pupils are exposed to so many of the incorrect messages about their bodies, relationships and expectations. It is important that our students have the opportunity to discuss these is-sues.

Tomorrow the 16th February we are removing the timetable for two hours to carry out our regular PSHE/RSE morning. For the younger students we will be focusing on 'growing bodies'. The children will be split into girls and boys for this particular topic to enable them to ask questions which may be concerning them. The later part of the session the class will be joined together again and the topic will be Consent. Both subjects areas will be addressed by staff in an age appropriate way, for example; to understand that it is important to ask for consent when borrowing others belongings. That it is ok to say 'no' without it being rude or unkind. That if something makes you feel worried or concerned you can say 'no', then tell someone.

4AS and 4AG will address puberty and 'what can I expect, what's normal and why does it happen'. This will help our pupils understand and manage the physical and emotional changes that may happen during puberty and to recognise that not everyone feels the same at the same time, or feels the same about the same things.

The older students will also be focusing on Consent. This will be addressed in a more mature and relevant manner according to their age. This will support our students with developing their understanding of key concepts around consent, including: freedom and capacity to consent; the impact of pornography; how to avoid assumptions; and pressure, persuasion and coercion.

Classes 2MC and 3CS will also be covering the use of mobile phones for sending inappropriate material and the social repercussions. They will recognise what it means to know someone on-line



and how this differs from knowing someone face to face; to identify the risks of communication with others not known in person.

The American Diploma, 1SL and UAS will additionally be discussing harassment and assault.

If you have any concerns about the sessions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,

K Salthouse

Mrs Kim Salthouse Head of School