

**Head of School:**

Mrs N. Teece, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE, SLE
nteece@mowbrayeducation.org

Executive Headteacher:

Mrs C. Stansfield, BA, MA, PGCE, NPQH
cstansfield@mowbrayeducation.org

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Personal Development Curriculum Update – November 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please see below a summary of what your child has been studying in Personal Development lessons this term. I am writing to let you know, so primarily you are aware, but also you may want to discuss the topics at home to aid understanding:

Year 7

Year 7 have had a wonderful term getting to know their teachers and settling into secondary school life. A lot of the activities we have done in lessons have focused around friendships. A large part of our Personal Development curriculum in Year 7 looks at the attributes of forming positive and healthy relationships, and this is the introduction to this. Later in the term students will evaluate the different terms, 'bullying' and 'banter'. We will use case study examples in lessons to help teach students the tools as they grow up. Next term, we will be looking at online safety, where we look at students becoming "Internet Citizens".

Year 8

Year 8 have started the year, continuing on from their work last year on healthy relationships, by looking at their relationship with themselves. We have explored stereotypes, making judgements and how to handle pressures from different areas of their lives. We have looked at how to say no, and how to be responsible for their individual actions. Students have used scenarios to explore their own responses and teachers have facilitated discussions based on this. Next term, students will begin to look at Intimate Relationships.

Year 9

Year 9 have again built on their prior knowledge on healthy relationships and started to look at Romantic and Physical Relationships. Lessons have focused on identifying positive and negative traits in relationships and how to tackle unhealthy behaviours. Students have spent some time discussing consent – what it means to them and what it means in the law. Using scenarios they have identified when consent has, and has not been given. Later this term, we will introducing students to contraception choices.

Next term, we will look further into consent, but also build on Year 7 and Year 8 curriculum memory to look at online dangers too. We will be using some real-life examples for this and exploring '*Breck's Last Game* and *Kayleigh's Love Story*'. Please see further details linked below:

<https://www.leics.police.uk/police-forces/leicestershire-police/areas/leicestershire-force-content/c/campaigns/2019/brecks-last-game/>

<https://www.leics.police.uk/kayleighslovestory>

Students will sensitively and appropriately explore some of these difficult issues with their teachers.

If you are concerned about any of the information outlined / linked above, then please do get in contact via email (see overleaf) by Monday 13th December so we can sort a suitable alternative for your child.

Please see overleaf.....

Year 10

This term, Year 10 have continued to look at the healthy relationship work they have built on in Key Stage 3 and explored further topics surrounding consent. We have looked at the relationship cycle and how relationships may move into different phases as time goes on. We have looked at different types of intimacy and how the media portrays unrealistic expectations on body types, wealth and happiness. Students will continue to look at the dangers of unrealistic expectations until the end of term.

Next term, we will move on to 'Mental Health and Wellbeing'. We will continue on from the work started in tutor time to explore specific Mental Health challenges and here will be a focus on eating disorders next term (January 2022 onwards). **Please contact myself (estrickland@johnferneley.org) or Mrs Oates (poates@johnferneley.org) if this will be difficult for your child – we aim to have fully inclusive safe classrooms, but appreciate this topic will be difficult for some students.**

Please be aware that we are going to show the 'Freddie Flintoff: Living with Bulimia' documentary in lessons – it is rated as "G" for guidance by the BBC and contains some upsetting scenes (more information can be found here > <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000n1xx>).

If you would NOT like your child to watch this documentary in lesson, please inform myself on email no later than Friday 7th January 2022.

Year 11

Year 11 have been, once again, looking at positive relationships and external dangers. They have explored difficult topics relating to abuse, honour-based violence and unhealthy relationships. They have been exceptionally mature about discussing and dealing with these topics in lessons. We have also focused on protected characteristic (Equality Act) following on from their work in Year 10, with a particular focus on the LGBTQ+ community and used case studies to explore different types of prejudice.

To complete their topic on this area, we would like to show them the documentary 'Abused by my Girlfriend' - this is rated as a "G" for guidance on the BBC and contains some upsetting scenes and strong language (more information <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0700912/abused-by-my-girlfriend>). **If you would NOT like your child to watch this documentary in lesson, please inform myself on email no later than Friday 3rd December 2021.**

Next term, Year 11 students will be looking at help available to them locally and will take part in a series of "Life Skills" lessons (as requested by them), where we will look at basic finance, debt and money matters!

Thank you all in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Strickland
Head of Personal Development
estrickland@johnferneley.org