

**Head of School:**

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23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing to update you on our current Personal Development curriculum and offer in school. As in previous years, Personal Development lessons are delivered by a small, dedicated team. Students will have a 1-hour lesson every two weeks. These lessons will be supported by a tutor time session each week and weekly social, moral, spiritual, and cultural themes in assemblies and tutor sessions. The rights of parents to withdraw students has altered slightly and the new guidance from the DfE is as follows:

*Parents will have a right to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent. Source: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)*

If you would prefer your child **not** to take part in these lessons, an alternative programme of study will be made available during Personal Development lessons. Your child will continue to have the relationship element of the curriculum but be removed for the Sex Education focus. If this is the case, please email me on the email address below **by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September**.

We have taken care to design the timing and content of lessons following on from responses to student voice, close contacts with the pastoral team and learning walks, therefore, ensuring we are intervening and educating at exactly the right time for students to make the best impact on their development. All students will take part in wellbeing activities every lesson as part of our commitment to enabling students to look after their mental health. Below is a breakdown of what each year group will be focusing on:

- **Year 7** – Healthy relationships, friendships, bullying and cyber-bullying.
- **Year 8** – Relationships (including respectful relationships), the roles and responsibilities of raising children, and equality and the law.
- **Year 9** – Respectful relationships, peer pressure, consent, contraception, and pregnancy.
- **Year 10** – Healthy relationships, intimate relationships, and the concept of attraction. Dealing with relationship changes. Un-realistic portrayal of sex in the media and online.
- **Year 11** – Phases of a relationship, LGBT+ and equality, keeping the balance in relationships, honour-based violence and being safe.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [estrickland@johnferneley.org](mailto:estrickland@johnferneley.org).

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Strickland**  
**Whole School Personal Development Lead**  
[estrickland@johnferneley.org](mailto:estrickland@johnferneley.org)

