



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on our current Personal Development curriculum offered in school. As in previous years, the Personal Development lessons are delivered by a small, dedicated team and students will have a 1-hour lesson every 2 weeks. These lessons will be supported by tutor time sessions and weekly social, moral, spiritual and cultural themes in assemblies and tutor sessions.

The rights of parents to withdraw students from the sex education element of these lessons according to the Department for Education is below:

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 At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.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

If you would prefer your child not to take part in the sex education lessons, an alternative program of study will be made available during PD lessons. Your child will continue to have the relationship element of the curriculum but be removed from the Sex Education focus. If this is the case, please respond to this email by **Friday 13th October**.

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.

Year 7 – Healthy relationships, friendships, bullying and cyber-bullying. **Please note there is no sex education in Year 7.**

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 – Futures Focus – post 16 study and personal statements.

Kind regards,

Piotr Kieres
Head of Personal Development