

Ref: MD/CJ

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

All our year 9 students will start our next topic of Relationships and Sex Education in Term 4. We will be covering both healthy and unhealthy relationships, this means we teach topics such as fertility, routes into parenthood, preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections, as well as teenage relationship abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. All of these topics will be taught sensitively, with age appropriate material and follow the guidance as set out by the Government when they made the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education a statutory requirement.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to term 6 where we shall be exploring the influence and impact of the media, including pornography, on young people's attitudes and behaviour. There is evidence to show increasing numbers of young people are accessing pornography and that pornography, along with the media representation of men and women, is shaping young people's expectations about sex, the opposite sex, body image and views on safer sex. There is also concern nationally about an increase in violence in teenage relationships.

This part of our sex and relationship education programme will:

- Provide information about the law, sex and pornography and explain, for example, that it is illegal to send pornography and sexual images via mobile phones;
- Explore media representations of male and female bodies and, using materials on the Channel 4 and Dove websites, consider normal body shape;
- Explore and critique the attitudes to men, women, sex and bodies portrayed in the media and pornography;
- Develop young people's skills to keep themselves and their friends safe.

Please contact Mrs Dempsey at school if you have any queries about the Sex and Relationship Education programme.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs M Dempsey
Head of PSHE