



Huntcliff School

An Academy for Success

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1st October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 and 10 Students – RSE

You will be aware that, as a part of your child's educational experience at Huntcliff School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future. I am writing to let you know that, over the next term, your child will be taking part in lessons which focus on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Lessons will include students learning about healthy and unhealthy relationships, different types of families, managing online relationships, menstruation and puberty, self-esteem and romance, consent, contraception, managing conflict, sexual orientation and gender identity, marriage and divorce, sexually transmitted infections, sharing explicit images ('sexting'), the effects of pornography on relationship expectations, body image and gender stereotyping, parenting skills, relationship myths, relationship/domestic abuse, forced marriage.

- Infections and Protection - dangers of sexually transmitted infections, ensuring they understand the short and long term effects, as well as which can be treated or cured, and which can't. Information on safer sex, and local information relating to how (when the time is right for them) to access them for free. Developing a greater awareness of the law and consent.
- Sex: Your decisions – building on the themes of consent and contraception look at the choices young people need to consider before entering a sexual relationship. This session will cover the most up to date contraception information; the effects of unplanned parenthood on potential mothers and fathers. The session will highlight the limited power of fathers in decision making, the effects of pregnancy for mothers, as well as financial and lifestyle impact for both.
- Respectful relationships, including friendships – that some types of behaviours within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control; what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable; the legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal.
- Sources of information about sex – advantages and disadvantages of sources of information about sex; how to define pornography (and that it is not legal material); understand the differences and similarities between sex in real relationships and that which is featured in pornography; explored pornography in psychological, political and societal contexts; explored how common access to pornography can affect attitudes and beliefs towards sex, relationships, self and others and the potentially negative effects.



This is part of our school's PSHE education programme which is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. For more detail about our PSHE curriculum offer, please visit the school's website. All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and be underpinned by our school ethos and values. A variety of opportunities will be provided for students to ask questions in order to prepare them for relationships in the modern world.

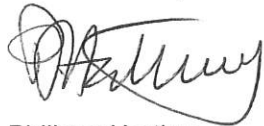
You are welcome to view the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents: recent parental feedback has indicated that the overwhelming majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of the Relationships and Sex Education programme. If you would like to find out more or to discuss a request to withdraw your child from the Sex Education, please contact Mrs Hartley. We will then arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss your concerns and then we can consider your request.

Please refer to our RSE policy on the school website for further details.

Some sessions have been missed owing to lockdown. We shall catch up on sessions missed during the course of the next academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PHartley', written in a cursive style.

Philippa Hartley
RSE Lead

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