

22nd November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: PSHE at The Dean Academy

As a part of your child's education at The Dean Academy, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. Modelling and informing high standards of PSHE throughout the school is the responsibility of all staff, whether classroom teachers or teaching assistants and staff receive regular and detailed training around this subject each year.

PSHE education in the United Kingdom is compulsory and explores three main strands: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world. We ensure that PSHE education runs throughout all curriculum subject areas, as well as tutor time and assemblies, and gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

All students in Key Stage Three study Values and Society lessons once a week, where PSHE forms a large proportion of curriculum content alongside compulsory British Values and the study of religious, philosophical and ethical beliefs. Topics covered in Year 7 include Asking Big Questions, Is Buddhism a Religion or a Way of Life? Healthy Lifestyles, Heroes and Rebels, What Does it Mean to Belong and Community.

I am writing to let you know that next term, starting in January 2020, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. RSE lessons in Year 7 will include teaching about age appropriate healthy relationships, focussing on friendships; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe online; developing self-esteem and confidence. Students will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website for more details about our Values and Society curriculum. All teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. We would like to invite you to attend a parent information meeting on Tuesday 26th November 2019 (12.30 – 1.30 p.m.) to find out more about what your child will learn, view the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home. Please email info@thedeacademy.org to register your interest in this meeting and to ensure sufficient chairs and refreshments are set up.

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 Values and Society and PSHE programmes run in school. Feedback from students shows lessons are engaging, challenging and enjoyed throughout all year groups and assessments, both formal and informal, show students make good progress and are willing to engage with debate and reflection on a range of thought-provoking topics.

I look forward to speaking to many of you at the information meeting.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Emily Smith
Deputy Head Teacher (SLT Member Responsible for PSHE)