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Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Upcoming Relationship and Sex Education Lessons

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. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly.

As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme, your child will soon receive lessons on relationships, sexual health, and personal safety (RSE).

In term 6 of Year 9, PSHE and RSE will be taught during your child's Values and Society lessons and will include teaching about:

- Safe relationships
- Consent
- STIs
- Contraception
- Abusive relationships
- Sexting

The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. All PSHE teaching will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

You do have a right to withdraw your child from Sex Education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your 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 At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive Sex Education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. However, we are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the new PSHE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all our students.

You are welcome to contact me to discuss the programme further at Natalie.Longman@thedeacademy.org

Yours sincerely,

Miss N Longman
PSHE Lead

