



September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Curriculum – Future Horizons - Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

I am writing to you as we start the new academic year at South Dartmoor, to introduce part of our new curriculum. This has been developed to support all our students make academic progress whilst also being supported fully in their personal, social and health development. Much has been reported in the media regarding well-being, and this has resulted in the government making PSHE compulsory in schools from September 2019 as well as making changes to the health section of this area of study. As we have made adjustments to our options in Years 9-11 from September 2018, it was also sensible to bring PSHE into our curriculum at the same time. We will be using a professionally produced Scheme of Learning produced by Collins Publications for all our PSHE teaching and learning called *Your Life*.

Whilst PSHE is now a compulsory part of the South Dartmoor Curriculum, it is still possible for parents/carers to determine their child's access to one area of PSHE. As part of the school's Personal, Social and Health Education programme, your child will receive a small number of lessons on relationships and sexual health. The government is currently looking at whether this should also be compulsory from September 2019 and I will update you further should they decide to change the law regarding this.

The purpose of these lessons is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on love and respect. This is to encourage the eventual development of safe and healthy relationships in later life. The lessons will develop understanding and attitudes which will help students to form relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and to appreciate the value of stable family life, including the responsibilities of parenthood and possible marriage. It is our recommendation that all students access this learning which is age appropriate.

Parents can withdraw their children from all or part of these small number of lessons on sex education as currently that does not form part of the statutory National Curriculum. If you wish to withdraw your child from the lessons on sexual health and safe relationships would you please return to me the opt out slip below by Friday 14 September – this can be handed to me directly or by handing the slip into student reception.

Please contact me if you require further information.

*Yours faithfully*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ralph Wickenden'.

Ralph Wickenden  
Deputy Principal, Curriculum

*To: Mr. R. Wickenden*

**Re: PSHE**

I would like to opt my child out of the sexual health and safe relationships lessons.

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Name of student

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Signature of parent/carer