



Dear Parent/Carer,

At Newark Academy we are proud of the focus we place on the development of our students as individuals. We passionately believe that our students deserve opportunities that prepare them to be responsible young people who are able to make positive contributions to our communities and society as a whole.

Our Personal Development curriculum is carefully designed to enable us to deliver on this mission and I am writing to you with information regarding a very important opportunity that we are devising for our students. An important aspect of our Personal Development curriculum is linked closely to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), a compulsory element of the National Curriculum for all children. These aspects can often be quite difficult for some parents and teachers to deliver as they can often be very specialist topics that require experts within that field to deliver. Or, they can be complex topics which many parents might find difficult to cover with their children.

We believe that RSE is a fundamental part of all children's wider education, with the core purpose of equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and able to make positive and healthy decisions regarding sexual health. We are therefore committed to teaching sexual health, positive relationships, healthy lifestyles to help foster pupil wellbeing and develop resilience and character that we know are fundamental to our happiness.

To strengthen the delivery of this work we often work with external providers/experts to ensure our students receive the best possible education. The current restrictions do make this a little more complicated than they would ordinarily be and we have worked creatively with one of our providers to maintain our commitment to delivering this extremely important knowledge to our students.

On Wednesday 9th December, NA6 students will spend three periods of the school day accessing high quality online sessions delivered by the organisation 'Sexplain'. These sessions will be led by specialist staff with a vast amount of experience and be supported by your child's classroom teacher. If you would like to understand more about the work they do please have a look at their website: <https://schoolofsexed.org/contact-us>

Session 1 will allow students to learn and discuss: Gender and sexuality, re-defining 'sex' and challenging heteronormativity

Session 2 will allow students to learn and discuss: Signs of abusive relationships, gender based violence and victim blaming

Session 3 will allow students to learn and discuss: Pleasure, sexual violence, the law and support services.

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Students will also be taught the importance of safe use of contraception. To cover this area effectively the facilitators will provide opportunities for students to unwrap and familiarise themselves with contraception methods such as condoms and be taught about their safe use. This short session will be led by a sexual health expert with the purpose of empowering our students to be able to make healthy decisions regarding sex when they are over 16 and when they give consent.

We appreciate that some parents and students might not feel comfortable with this experience and ask that you email the Academy should you wish to request your son/daughter be withdrawn from this aspect of the session.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience via the Academy office team.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Daw', written in a cursive style.

Ms A. Daw
Head of Religious Education and Personal Development Education