

6th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the third edition of the St Ivo Academy

Personal Development Parent Bulletin.



1. Parent PD Forum

Many thanks to all those parents who attended our second Parents Forum meeting which was on the topic of online misogyny. We began the evening with a summary of decisions made in the previous forum, and the steps we have made to improve communication with parents on Personal Development issues. These bulletins will be sent out approximately once per half term and will outline what students are learning about in PD lessons and assemblies, as well as advertising the next Forum meeting.

The session began with a presentation, exploring the meaning of terms such as Misogyny, Manosphere and Incels. We then discussed Andrew Tate, the powerful influence he has on young people, and why as an organisation which supports diversity and inclusion, many of his views are unacceptable to us at St Ivo Academy.

A very lively and thought-provoking discussion ensued. We discussed the importance of teaching young people the importance of respect, or critically evaluating what they see online and being aware of the influence being exerted on them. We also discussed the need for positive role models for young people, and especially for young men, as teachers, parents as well as celebrities. Some parents expressed that PD lessons should be taught by as many male teachers as non-male. Young men need someone to look up to, but they also need help navigating the particular pressures placed upon them by social media. We discussed mental health and how we can support young men to express their feelings, without undermining their right to be strong, assertive and other traditional masculine traits. Two parents also raised the issue of unconscious bias against boys, which should be something we all guard against, if boys are not to feel attacked in this debate.

Finally we shared ideas about how to talk to young people about these issues: being curious not critical, recognising the challenges of being a young man today, exploring the idea of misogyny without making the discussion personal.

2. **WE NEED YOU** for our next Parents PD Forum

Our next Personal Development Parent Forum will take place on Wednesday 19th April 17.00-18.15. Our focus will be on Sex and Relationships Education (SRE). We would like to use this opportunity to consult our parent body on our SRE policy, and share with you some of the areas covered in this part of our curriculum.

Please email me Amanda.crellin@astreastivo.org to book your place.

3. Parents of Year 11 students - Stress Management

<https://charliewaller.org/resources/an-emotionally-healthy-approach-to-gcses-a-guide-for-parents/>

The above resource has been very kindly shared with us by a parent who works in mental health. It is a useful guide which is packed with practical tips and ideas for parents and carers to support young people before, during and after exam time. We hope you find it useful.

4. PD lessons, Assemblies and Tutor time

As promised, we would like to keep you informed about the topics being covered in PD lessons, assemblies and TutorPD sessions up until our next parent forum.

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>ASSEMBLY THEME</u> | <u>TUTORPD</u> | <u>PD LESSONS</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20/2 | Role Models | Who do you look up to and why? | Forming and maintaining healthy relationships |
| 27/2 | World Book Day 4 th March | Form tutor talks about their favourite book. What is your favourite book and why? | |
| 6/3 | World Marriage Week | Why do people choose to get married? What does a healthy relationship look like? NB House Meeting Wed lunch | Contraception and Parenthood YEAR 9 MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP |
| 13/3 | Knife Crime led by PC Rachel Martin | Revise Protected Characteristics and British Values. | |
| 20/3 | Neuro-divergence awareness. | A focus on Autism | |
| 27/3 | PRAISE /ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY | What have you done this term that you are proud of? | Bullying, Abuse and Discrimination YEAR 9 MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP And then COUNTY LINES PRESENTATION |
| EASTER HOLIDAY | | | |
| 18/4 | International Siblings Day | What are the pros and cons of having siblings? How can we have positive relationships with them? | |

Please get in touch if you have any questions, suggestions, requests for future parent forums, or anything else related to the issues covered above.

Also, if you have any expertise you would like to offer to the Personal Development department, to support us in keeping our work current and relevant, we would be delighted to hear from you.

With very best wishes

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