

24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the St Ivo Academy Personal Development Parent Bulletin #4.



### 1. Parent PD Forum

Thank you to all those who joined us for our fourth Parent PD Forum on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. The meeting was the first step in our consultation of parents regarding St Ivo Academy's Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Curriculum.

We began by defining what RSE means, and exploring the current aims of our RSE curriculum. We then discussed and responded to a number of questions which are asked of our young people through RSE. Examples included;

- Do I understand the physical and emotional benefits and risks of trusting, respectful and intimate relationships?
- Do I understand that consent must always be actively sought and then freely given, without coercion, manipulation or threat, and that consent can always be withdrawn in intimate situations?
- What do I understand about different forms of contraception and their effectiveness?

This resulted in a lively and fascinating discussion about how we ensure that lessons are age-appropriate, by revisiting them each year in a slightly different way, how teachers deal with differing maturity levels and how we guarantee a safe and comfortable learning environment.

Finally we talked over the differences between;

- a) Relationships education: eg. consent, the impact of pornography on young people's attitudes towards relationships and coercive control.
- b) Health Education: eg. emotional well-being, trust, contraception and STIs and
- c) Sex Education: eg. the physical and emotional effects of sexual excitement, delaying sexual intimacy until I am sure I am ready.

Our key aim over the coming months will be to clarify these differences. Parents are legally able to withdraw their children from Sex Education so it is important that it is clear what exactly comes under this heading.

We will be contacting parents in the coming weeks to ask for your opinions on this, so watch this space.

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

Our next Personal Development Parent Forum will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 17.00-18.15. Following requests from parents in our forum, our focus will be on talking to young people about Gender and LGBTQ.

Please email me [Amanda.crellin@astreastivo.org](mailto:Amanda.crellin@astreastivo.org) to book your place.

### 3. 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. If you would like more information, please get in touch.

| <u>DATE W/B</u>      | <u>ASSEMBLY THEME</u>                  | <u>TUTORPD</u>   | <u>PD Drop down lessons</u>  |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>24/4</b>          | <b>Earth Day/ Clean Air Day</b>        | The Syrian Turkish Earthquake - Academy Fundraiser                                 |  |
| <b>1/5</b>           | <b>World Refugee Day</b>               | End Plastic Pollution  | Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May -<br>*Social Influence<br>Vaping                                    |
| <b>8/5</b>           | <b>Mental Health Awareness Week</b>    | Dealing with Anxiety   | NB. Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May<br>School Fundraiser for the Syrian/Turkish Earthquake appeal. |
| <b>15/5</b>          | <b>World Cancer Day and Sun safety</b> | What advice would you give to a friend who had a family member living with Cancer. | Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May<br>**Learning Skills<br>Career Pathways                           |
| <b>22/5</b>          | <b>Aren't you amazing?</b>             | Me and my potential to achieve.  |  |
| <b>MAY HALF TERM</b> |  |  |  |

4. As a school we are working closely with PS Andy Caruana and PCOS Rachel Martin, to try to keep our school and the local community safe. They have asked us to encourage you to use the below number if you have any concerns that you feel the police should be aware of, and you would like to remain anonymous.



Do 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

Amanda Crellin and Maria Whateley.

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[Maria.whateley@astreastivo.org](mailto:Maria.whateley@astreastivo.org)

### **\*Social Influences and Vaping**

According to statistics vaping is on the rise amongst secondary school students. The NHS says that nearly 1 in 5 15-year olds were using vapes in 2021 and this figure is probably higher now in 2023. At St Ivo Academy we have decided to provide further information on the dangers of vaping for all students in KS3. In addition to this we will also be looking at peer pressure and how to deal with this if a student feels pressured. We will also be looking at gangs and the consequences of joining them for the older KS3 students.

### **\*\*Learning Skills and Career Pathways**

For this drop down we will be focusing on what skills the students already have or could improve on to ready them for the outside world. We will look at what goals the students have and how they can achieve these and the importance of hard work. Younger KS3 students will be looking forward and thinking about their GCSE choices and how these could help them achieve their long-term goals. Older KS3 students will be looking at the different routes available to them to and which pathway is most suitable for them.