

9th March 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

RE: PSHE Relationship & Sex Education - FGM

As part of their personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education lessons, Year 7 take part in a series of relationship & sex education (RSE) lessons. These focus mainly on explaining and preparing students for the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty. They also consider the changing nature of a range of relationships, including friendship, family relationships and intimate relationships.

The purpose of RSE at Bexhill Academy is:

- to prepare students for the physical and emotional changes of growing up;
- to give them the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices;
- to build their confidence and skills to deal with situations they may encounter;
- to help them to stay safe and know where and how to ask for help if needed.

At times, carefully chosen external visitors and speakers may contribute to the programme. In these cases, lesson content will be agreed in advance and visitors will always be supervised by a member of academy staff.

As part of this year's RSE, students will have two lessons that teaches about female genital mutilation (FGM). They will be taught that FGM is illegal in the UK and that it is also a criminal offence to take a UK citizen abroad for the purpose of FGM (whether or not it is lawful in the country the girl is taken to). This will be taught in an age-appropriate way in the context of knowing about bodily changes during puberty, being able to use the correct language, keeping safe and feeling confident to ask questions and discuss in a mature and appropriate way.

We believe that this will be an important addition to the Year 7 RSE programme. If you have concerns or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact Miss Burdett.

Kindest regards,



Alicia Burdett

PSHE lead
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