

Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE

Telephone: (0113) 887 3240
E-mail: info@cardinalheenan.com
Website: www.cardinalheenan.com
Headteacher: Mr D Kelly BA (Hons) NPQH



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Dear parent/carer

As part of the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship (PSHE) scheme of learning, Year 7 take part in a series of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) lessons over the next few months. These focus mainly on developing students' understanding and preparing them for the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty. The content explores the changing nature of relationships, including friendship, family relationships and intimate relationships.

The purpose of this is to give students the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices, to build their confidence and skills to deal with situations that they may encounter, and to help them stay safe and know where and how to ask for help if it is needed.

As part of this scheme, students will have a lesson which teaches them about female genital mutilation (FGM). This is a mandatory part of education in the UK. Students will be taught about the harm that FGM causes, along with the fact that it is illegal 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 child is taken to). The topic will be taught in an age-appropriate way with the use of correct and appropriate language. The focus will be on staying safe and students will be given the opportunity to engage in discussions and ask questions.

If you have any concerns or questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please email: Dr Mark Bradley: MBY@cardinalheenan.com

Many thanks

Yours Sincerely

Dr Mark Bradley

Co-ordinator of PSHCE

