



Dear Parent / Carer

I thought I would write to you all to bring you up to date on our Personal Development (PSHE) programme from the Spring term.

Students, throughout the term, have been educated on important topics such as respectful relationships, online behaviour and looking after both our physical and mental health. In order to further prepare our year 11 students for life after GCSEs, students also covered topics on financial and debt management.

Our pastoral team held 'Social Media Safety' sessions for parents and carers which have also been accessed by our feeder schools. The Social Media Safety sessions were designed to educate parents / carers on the range of social media platforms that students are accessing to ensure that parents / carers know how to support their child to do this safely.

Since September, the Personal Development lessons have been delivered by tutors, every other week (week A) on a Wednesday period 5 and students continue to access further support & information through the pastoral programme. Now that the curriculum has been running for a period of time, we gathered student feedback via our student council; please find the minutes here:

<https://www.purbeck.dorset.sch.uk/information/student-council/>

The overwhelming feedback was that students find the lessons useful, enjoy the variety of topics and content delivered and particularly enjoy the lessons being delivered by their tutor. The Student Council requested to study topics such as misogyny and the messaging of such influencers as Andrew Tate and to learn more about financial management and life skills in key stage 3 as opposed to focussing on it in the later school years. The pastoral team will take this feedback and amend the curriculum ahead of next year.

Throughout the programme, The Purbeck School pupils continue to develop the knowledge, skills and qualities required to manage their lives, now and in the future. These skills and characteristics will help pupils to stay healthy, safe and prepare them for life and work in modern Britain.

As a reminder the core themes which are covered across the year include the following:

- Health and wellbeing
- Living in the wider world
- Relationships

I strongly encourage all parents / careers to access the Personal Development overview which can be accessed here <https://www.purbeck.dorset.sch.uk/information/curriculum/pshe/> to further understand the content covered which at times can be hard hitting and sensitive.

Next term, we are looking forward to welcoming the Amy Winehouse Foundation into our school who are going to be speaking to students about healthy coping strategies and how to develop resilience.

If you have any questions about the programme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Carly Watson