



Holy Family Catholic High School

Virgin's Lane, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL.

Tel: 0151 924 6451

Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Friday, 25 October 2024

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our Personal Development Programme. This programme encompasses numerous aspects of school life and we are continually striving to provide further enrichment opportunities to equip our young people with the knowledge, understanding and practical skills to live safe, healthy and productive lives.

Our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education programme is delivered during weekly 'PD' lessons and Form Time and covers three main areas – Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Health and Well-being and Careers, preparing our young people for future success in Modern Britain and the wider world.

RSE lessons include teaching about Healthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships; families; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe and understanding consent; developing self-esteem and confidence. Pupils have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment, by trained staff using age appropriate resources from the PSHE association and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. Please visit the school's website for an overview of the programme. You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should plan for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – is vitally important. You are welcome to contact the school if you wish to discuss in more detail any aspects of the programme or, if you wish to withdraw your child, please email the Headteacher head.holyfamilyhigh@schools.sefton.gov.uk.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support with regards to our fundraising activities and events. Over the last year, the school has raised over £17,000! This fantastic amount has been donated to numerous charities – including Hope Indian Orphanage, Cardiac Risk in the Young, Knife Savers, Young Minds and Papyrus. Papyrus is a charity for the prevention of young suicide who, along with Mike Palmer (3 Dads Walking) delivered whole school assemblies and Year 10 workshops. Mr Palmer said, 'it was an absolute pleasure to be part of the assemblies and the festival. Your young people are a credit to Holy Family...'

We will keep you informed regarding any developments with our Personal Development Programme on a regular basis and you are welcome to contact me if you require any further information. In the meantime, have a lovely half term and, once again, many thanks for your support with our fundraising efforts.

Kind regards.

Miss C Murphy
Deputy Headteacher