

1st July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

PSHE Drop day – Year 9

On Tuesday 13th July Year 9 will be taking part in a PSHE day. As part of our responsibility to deliver a full RSE programme, students will explore various areas of relationships and sex education. As part of our programme of study, we plan to show our Year 9 students a theatre production called 'Birds and Bees'.

Birds and Bees is a brand-new show by award-winning writer Charlie Josephine, tailor-made and filmed for secondary school students. Developed with Year 10 and Year 11 students, it addresses complex topics such as consent, sex positivity, online safety and intersectionality. The production is designed to facilitate complex conversations in an inclusive and accessible way.

Although the nature of the production is sensitive, I wanted to reassure parents that we feel the content is wholly suitable for pupils in year 9. It is a conversation-based theatre production, that on occasions uses moderate foul language. Birds and Bees also contains flashing images which may be triggering for people with photosensitive epilepsy.

As I am sure you are aware pupils are growing up in a society where social media is increasingly influential and this session will teach pupils the importance of staying safe online. It dramatises contemporary issues around relationships and consent in an exciting artistic form. Following the production students will complete a follow up session, reflecting on key messages and also allowing pupils to ask questions. All of these learning intentions are themes that run throughout our PSHE curriculum.

Relationships and Sex Education is a compulsory subject; however, parents do have the right to withdraw their child from the 'sex education' element of this subject after discussion with the school. Even if a child is withdrawn, many pupils will discuss such issues with each other outside the classroom. We hope all students will have the opportunity to take part in our carefully planned lessons to support them in their understanding of what are often relevant and sensitive topics based on recent statistics and data. If you wish for your daughter to be removed from the 'sex education' element of RSE then please complete the relationships and sex education removal [form](#).

Yours sincerely



Megan Martin | PSHE Lead and Careers Lead

Northampton School for Girls

