

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

### **Re: Year 9 Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education**

At Ashmole Academy we are committed to student's personal development and as part of that we understand how important it is that our students are able to manage their own wellbeing, health and safety.

Therefore, I am writing to inform you of what we will be teaching in Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education in the second half of the Spring Term, continuing into the Summer Term. Students in Year 9 will be beginning their Relationships and Sex Education with lessons starting the first week back after the half term break, commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

Through the delivery of these important lessons we are ensuring that we cover the statutory requirements from the government in this area of the curriculum. More information on this can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

Year 9 will follow the curriculum guidance as outlined by the government supported with research provided by the PSHE Association.

Students will be building on prior learning received in Years 7 and 8 on managing relationships and will refocus on the importance of healthy relationships built on trust and consent. Students will be reminded of what constitutes sexual harassment and how to report any behaviours which they believe to be inappropriate. Students will learn about aspects relating to sexual intimacy focusing on important health information relating to the prevention of STI's and contraception as well realistic expectations of intimate relationships and how to counter unrealistic portrayals in the media and online safety. As part of safeguarding education there are important lessons surrounding coercive control, honour-based violence, forced marriage and FGM. Students are required to be taught about important laws relating to these issues. The most important aspects students will be reminded of are strategies on how to manage these complex issues and where to get help and support.

.../cont.



Students will also be recapping the importance of upholding the principles outlined in the Equality Act 2010 when exploring attitudes and different perspectives in society.

Please note the law has changed from 2020 in that parents are unable to withdraw their child from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education.

Parents will be able to withdraw their child, from any or all aspects of Sex Education, other than those which are part of the science curriculum, up to, and until three terms before the age of 16.

However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this decision with you in more detail so please do contact me directly by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 if you wish to exercise the right to withdraw your child from these specific lessons on sex education.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Miss Cork', written in black ink.

Miss Cork

**Head of Pastoral Curriculum and PSHE**