

26th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

Re: Year 8 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 and also the Summer Term. Students in Year 8 will be beginning their Relationships and Sex Education with lessons starting the first week back after the half term break, commencing 23rd 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 8 will follow an age appropriate curriculum and therefore this will focus for the most part on the relationships aspect of the curriculum covering anti-discrimination, celebrating multiculturalism, understanding of the negative impacts of stereotyping relating to a number of aspects including LGBTQ+ as well as gender stereotyping. Students will also be reminded of the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to manage conflict. It is incredibly important that students understand the principle of consent in their everyday lives and whilst this will not cover a sexual aspect, students will start to explore the issues surrounding sexual harassment and where to get help and support. Important reminders on Youth Produced Sexual Imagery will also be highlighted relating to the law governing this.

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

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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. As I have outlined there is minimal sex education in Year 8 lessons however if you do have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by Monday 9th February 2026.

Yours faithfully



Miss Cork

Head of Pastoral Curriculum and PSHE