

September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

At TCA, we are passionate about the way we deliver a thorough and comprehensive Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) education curriculum. PSHCE education is a hugely important subject which ensures that students have the knowledge, understanding and practical skills to live safe, happy and healthy lives in the modern world.

For the benefit of informing parents/carers of our new year 7 students – and as a reminder to others - we are required to provide Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) to all students, and I am writing to let you know that, through the PSHCE curriculum, your child will receive RSE lessons on:

- Healthy relationships
- Online safety and the media
- Growing and changing, including puberty and personal hygiene
- Becoming more independent
- Keeping safe and consent
- Developing self-esteem and confidence

PSHCE lessons will cover a broad range of topics which are built on, year by year, in an age-appropriate way. The curriculum has been designed to pre-empt and recognise the daily challenges faced by young people, and to help them to address them in an appropriate way. RSE involves sharing factual information and exploring key issues students face today and in their futures. It teaches young people to respect themselves and others. As a parent or carer, you do have the right to request that your child be withdrawn from sex education. Relationships and health education are, however, statutory. Should you request this, a meeting with key staff will be arranged.

Material is taught sensitively at an age-appropriate level and teachers are highly trained to deliver the curriculum. To be clear: teachers of PSHCE and Personal Development never tell your child *what* to think; teachers are here to teach your child *how* to think and thrive in modern Britain.

PSHCE education is taught throughout the Academy in every year group, is subject to regular parental consultation and is monitored and reviewed regularly. Please visit the Academy website for full details about the curriculum and to view our policy.

<https://www.thornhillcommunityacademy.co.uk/curriculumplans>

As ever, we are committed to working in partnership with parents, and if you would like to find out more, or be involved in shaping the Academy's curriculum as it continues to evolve, please contact us. As ever, our Academy's expectations are at the core of all that we do in all subjects – be nice, and work hard.



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Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Raven-Hill  
Head of PHSCE

