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Head of School

Michael Chiles

Executive Principal

Melanie Wicks

September 2024

RE: Personal Development Y7-Y10

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to inform you that from 11th September 2024 we have introduced the enrichment electives programme for students in Year 7 to Year 10. This is an exciting part of our personal development offer to develop students' character and support finding their unique talents and interests, reaching their potential. Electives take place each Wednesday from 2:35-3:30pm. Students have already made their initial choices they were interested in under the pillars of Academic, Physical Health and Wellbeing and Community and Leadership. All students who met the selection deadline received one of their five choices.

Like any timetabled lessons, it is not possible to amend the choices unless there were extenuating individual circumstances linked to a medical/safety need. However, the students will opt again in October ready to commence a new elective in term two.

Please visit the personal development section of our website for further information.

<https://www.longdendalehighschool.org.uk/learning/personal-development/electives-programme/>

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

You may already be aware that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, now forms part of the National Curriculum as of September 2020. As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme, your child will be receiving lessons on relationships, sexual health, and personal safety.

Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Attached you will find our RSE policy and in Appendix 1 you will see the curriculum content per year group. The resources we use to deliver these lessons are all age-appropriate recommendations from the PSHE association.

The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

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 would make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

However, we are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the PSHE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all our students. You will find all the information you need, alongside details of parental withdrawal form in the attached policy.

You are welcome to contact me as Assistant Headteacher to discuss the programme content further:
g.m.lowe@lhs.spt.org.uk

Please let me know if you have any feedback on our RSE policy.

Yours Faithfully,

Miss G. Lowe (Assistant Headteacher)