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Dear Parent/Carer

Dangers of pornography – Year 11

One of the subjects we will be covering next week is the topic of pornography. As this is a topic that can raise many questions, I felt it best to explain in a more informative letter the reasoning behind this and a more detailed outline of what content will be covered to hopefully allay any concerns.

The Government has stated that pornography needs to be covered in Sexual Education provided by schools and academies, in order to discuss the following areas, which are taken directly from the RSE guidance provided by the Government to schools:

- Students need to understand the impact of viewing harmful content.
- That specifically sexually explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners.
- How to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship.
- Students should be made aware of the relevant legal provisions when relevant topics are being taught, including, for example, pornography.

The lesson content that will be delivered to the students is planned to cover each of the areas above, in a sensitive and appropriate manner for the students of Year 11. The lesson will begin with looking at fairy tales and discussing how they create an unrealistic portrayal of real-life relationships. The students will then move on to consider how people that partake in pornography are all real-life people, who can be forced into such work through exploitation. Students will then look at myths that have been created through the industry and will conclude the session by considering the damage that pornography can do to relationships, as well as with chemical reactions within the brain.

I am aware that this may cause many concerns for parents/cars, therefore there is the option for you to request that your child does not take part in this session. However we ask that you make an appointment to visit us so we can show you directly the content of the lesson and answer any further questions you have before this option is taken.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Kate Warnes
Director of Pastoral Care