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Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that, as a part of your child's educational experience at Ormiston Maritime Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future. I am writing to let you know that, throughout the year, your child's tutor group will be taking part in lessons which will focus on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Relationship Education Lessons in Year 8 will include pupils learning about Healthy and unhealthy relationships, different types of families, managing online relationships the content covered is:

- What are drugs? And how do I keep myself safe?
- How do I save a life?
- How do I identify and combat discrimination?
- How do I protect myself from exploitation?

This is part of our school's PSHE education programme which is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. For more detail about our PSHE curriculum offer, please visit the school's website: <http://www.omacademy.co.uk/> where you can access curriculum overviews by year group and our Relationships and Sex Education policy. All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and be underpinned by our school ethos and values. A variety of opportunities will be provided for pupils to ask questions in order to prepare them for relationships in the modern world.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. There will be opportunities throughout the year to find out more about what your child will learn, view the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home. We will advise you as to when these workshops will take place. You will also receive feedback on your child's engagement with and understanding of the programme.

Ormiston Maritime Academy respects the legal right of parents/carers to withdraw their child from all or part of the RSE programme, except for those statutory parts included in the national curriculum for citizenship, P.E., computing and science. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from RSE lessons, they should put in writing which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in and send this to the academy addressed to the curriculum leader for Social Sciences and Learning for Life.

Before granting any such request the Assistant Principal will discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. We will document this process to ensure a record is kept. If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Robson
Principal

