



Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **Citizenship Morning, Wednesday 23 September**

The first Citizenship morning of the new academic year takes place this Wednesday, 23 September.

The **Fourth Form** will be first taking part in a session that follows the theme of 'valuing our differences', and is focused on discussing our different identities and learning needs, promoting understanding about what makes us distinct from each other in the context of an international boarding school. Alongside discussion of cultural and linguistic differences there will also be a focus on Dyslexia, Asperger's Syndrome and other learner profiles. They will then go on to participate in a second session on respect, diversity, stereotyping with respect to sexual orientation and gender before finishing the morning with a session exploring some different scenarios post lockdown, discussing how they link with the various themes of PSHE education.

The **Remove Form** will start the morning with a session in which they will explore some of the potential impacts of the portrayal of sex in pornography and the laws associated with pornography. They will then go on to look at a session on alcohol and drugs where they will explore what is fact and what is fiction when it comes to alcohol, before considering the nature and impact of 'New Psychoactive Substances', illegal to make and sell since the passing of the Psychoactive Substances Act in 2016 but still quite prevalent on the UK drugs scene. As part of this, boys will view selected case study materials. They will finish the morning with a session exploring some different scenarios post lockdown, discussing how they link with the various themes of PSHE education.

The **Fifth Form** will start the morning looking at Sex and Relationships Education, including protection from STIs. They will then go on to look at Relationships and Consent: Boys will explore activities on abusive relationships, consent, and the risks associated with sharing sexual images. They will finish the morning watching an online version of a play entitled *Labels* by Joe Sellman-Leava, where he draws on his experiences of mixed heritage and racism. *Labels* examines the way we use words, the line between curiosity and fear, and the rise of anti-immigration rhetoric. At the end of the play, boys will have the chance to join Joe on a Teams call to ask him questions about the play.

The **Lower Sixth** will be spending the morning undergoing Peer Mentor Training via Teams with Mandy Rutter, who is a consultant in mental health, trauma, resilience and human aspects of business continuity. The boys will be working alongside their Housemaster to look at what being a mentor involves and strategies surrounding this, before going on to explore how in the current climate they can best look after themselves and support those in their house.

The **Upper Sixth** will spend the first part of the morning looking 'Beyond Bedford' with Tutors. During this session, Mrs Lincoln will be available on Teams in an open call for any queries. Boys have a chance to be finishing applications for UCAS, including personal statements and choices, if needed, researching choices further if needs be, preparing for Admissions Tests if appropriate and reading what they have said they have read in their personal statements. For boys with alternative plans or a Plan B as well as UCAS, they will need to be completing these applications and/or ensuring they have all documentation ready for the different deadlines. The rest of the morning will be spent exploring PSHE issues relevant to their age group, firstly looking at alcohol, its effects and impacts on those around us and secondly, Relationships, where students will identify healthy and unhealthy

relationship traits; explore abuse, controlling and coercive behaviours and investigate stalking and harassment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

With kind regards,

**Alice Swallow**  
Head of General Education