

Dear Parent / Carer

I wanted to write to you to bring you up to date on the Personal Development (PSHE) programme this term.

Students, throughout the term, have been educated on important topics such as: understanding our own emotions, drugs & alcohol including vapes, mental health, identity, discrimination and sexual harassment. Our Personal Development lessons have been delivered by tutors, every other week (week A) on a Wednesday period 5; the topics are cumulative and adapted to suit not only the needs of the year group but in response to local and national issues.

Throughout the last term, we have run two successful 'campaigns' which have united the school community. In October, we ran assemblies, house competitions and drop-down tutor activity to mark 'Anti-Bullying Week: Choose Respect' which allowed students to take a stand about bullying. Then, in December, we ran our second campaign 'Hope for Food' which saw over 1000 selection boxes or Christmas chocolate donated to the charity in Bournemouth.

A key focus this term has been developing our student voice within school. We have now adopted 'student focus groups' where selected students share their views and ideas on a range of topics. Throughout the autumn term, members of SLT visited all year 7 tutor groups to answer any questions they had on the day to day running of our school. Mrs Watson worked with year 11 students to hear their opinions on how revision and the tutor programme should work for them in January. We had a whole school vote on the use of CCTV around toilet areas. We worked with over 170 students who completed a questionnaire for us on anti-bullying which will feed into reviewing our anti-bullying provision in the new year. And finally, we have gathered the views of over 120 students on 'what it is like to be a student in The Purbeck School' this final student voice has been conducted and delivered by our 6th form student leadership team.

We have continued to develop our tutor programme this year and students continue to have a 'Bold Voices' activity where students discuss issues facing young people in society, topics have ranged from mental health to social media use and climate change. All students have alternate home learning slots and a careers activity which is linked to where they are in their academic journey.

An excitement announcement to come out of the autumn term is confirmation of our 'Activity Days' which we will be running for years 7-9 from Wednesday 2nd July – Friday 4th July. Students have regularly requested more enrichment opportunities so we are very excited to be able to offer this provision. Trips are still being finalised but will be tailored to each year group and range from visiting London, museums, theme parks and activity centres. Costings are still being finalised but we envisage the total cost to be around £100. More information will come out in the new year in terms of payment plans and trip details.

If you would like further information on our Personal Development curriculum, I strongly encourage you to access <https://www.purbeck.dorset.sch.uk/about-us/curriculum/personal-development>

As I am sure you can tell, it has been a very busy term for Personal Development and students really have been provided with some fantastic opportunities; I am very much looking forward to seeing what the Spring term brings

If you have any questions about the programme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Carly Watson