



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA

EHN/SNN



15th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,



As part of our varied PSHCRE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Religious Education) programme, we provide a variety of learning opportunities for pupils to ensure pupils can make appropriate life choices and be happy and safe. In Key Stage 4, this education is provided through tutor time, assemblies and Drop Down days. As a result Year 10 will be involved in a variety of activities during this week.



On Wednesday 17th October all Year 10 will be participating in a Drop Down day focusing on relationships and sex education. The aim of these sessions is to offer pupils the opportunity to engage in activities which will enhance their understanding of these complex issues.



During the sessions on Wednesday, there will be an opportunity to sign up for a C-card. The C-card is for 13 -25 year olds and has already helped reduce teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the borough. It allows young people to obtain free contraception in various locations in the borough. If a young person signs up to get a card, their use is confidentiality monitored to ensure any safeguarding concerns are raised. The workshops explain how the card works and also covers abstinence, respect, exploitation, local services, emergency contraception and how it works as well as blasting myths.



Further information on the Waltham Forest C-card scheme can be obtained from <http://www.comecorrect.org.uk/>.



Please see below the timetable for the day. Your child will attend three sessions over the course of the day and will attend normal sessions around this.



	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
10.1	Effects of alcohol and decision making	STIs and contraception	C-Card
10.2	C-Card	Effects of alcohol and decision making	STIs and contraception
10.3	STIs and contraception	C-Card	Effects of alcohol and decision making
	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
10.4	Effects of alcohol and decision making	STIs and contraception	C-Card
10.5	C-Card	Effects of alcohol and decision making	STIs and contraception

Supporting individual excellence



10.6	STIs and contraception	C-Card	Effects of alcohol and decision making
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We are currently reviewing the relationships and sex education policy which will be ratified later in the year. The current policy states:

However, under the Education Act 1993 parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE programme, except from those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to make an appointment with the Headteacher to discuss the issues. If this is not possible, parents are required to put this withdrawal in writing before it can be acted upon. (Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part without written parental permission). The school will make alternative arrangements for any such students.

As these activities are not part of the Science taught curriculum, parents may in this case email me directly to ehillman@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk if they wish to withdraw their child. Please also contact me if you do not wish your child to be able to sign up for a C-Card. I understand that as a parent/carer, you may feel anxious about this as a service for your child, but please consider this very carefully, as we want to encourage our young people to make safe and informed decisions.

In addition to this activity, 30 year 10 students will be participating in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge on Thursday 18th October. If your child is involved, they will have been informed by a member of the English team.

Yours sincerely



Emma Hillman
Headteacher