

**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

At Heath Lane Academy, we are dedicated to ensuring that all students receive high-quality, age-appropriate education on relationships, sex, and health to help them navigate their lives with confidence, respect, and care for others.

As part of our commitment, we have partnered with Talk Consent, a reputable organization with extensive experience delivering education on consent and preventing sexual violence to young people across the country.

**About the Workshops**

Talk Consent will provide Assemblies for students in all years on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November. These sessions are carefully tailored to be appropriate for the students' age. The content is grounded in the reality of students' lives and presented in a relatable and sensitive manner.

**What Will Be Covered**

The content of the sessions varies by year group to reflect age-appropriate learning objectives. Younger students will focus on understanding boundaries, respect, and the basics of consent, while older students will engage in more nuanced discussions about positive relationships, handling complex situations, and staying safe in both physical and online interactions.

Below is a brief summary of what will be delivered:

**Year 7 / 8 Active Bystander Workshop**

For this age group active bystander workshops aim to introduce the idea of challenging language & behaviour that they know is wrong, rather than going along with it.

We will cover:

- The importance of actively challenging harmful language and behaviour.
- How they can challenge them in a way that they feel able to do.
- What kind of language and attitudes need to be challenged.

**Year 9 Sexting & Consent Assembly**

Sexting and issues of online sexual abuse are relatively common amongst young people. Our online consent workshops offer students a safe space to ask questions and discuss the issues they face, whilst receiving important advice on how to stay safe and avoid harming others online.

We will discuss:

- The law and key definitions like image based sexual abuse and cyberflashing.
- The reasons young people might decide to engage in sharing sexual images.
- The impact that image based sexual abuse can have on young people's lives.
- What consent is and how the way we manage consent might be different online.

- How to keep yourself safe and the importance of being careful to ensure you don't harm others or break the law.

This assembly is focused on making students aware of the issue of sexual violence in their lives and how it is important to be careful with ensuring positive consent is present.

### **Year 10 & 11 Healthy Relationships**

We will discuss:

- The fact that every person has a right to equally positive and safe relationships and sexual activity.
- The prevalence of sexual violence and the impact it has on victims.
- The reality of how sexual violence is committed.
- The importance of aiming for positive and enthusiastic consent and what that means.
- How to manage grey areas or issues surrounding consent to ensure everyone is safe, healthy and respected.

### **Addressing Common Concerns**

We understand that some families may have questions or concerns about discussing these topics in school.

Evidence shows that high quality relationships and sex education does not encourage children to start sexual activity or become confused about their sexuality. It is more likely to keep young people safe from harm as well as increase the age at which they become sexually active.

Talk Consent works with students from diverse backgrounds and respects all perspectives, including those rooted in different cultural, religious, and personal beliefs. They do not promote any particular behaviours or have an agenda.

Their ethos is built on everyone having the right to safe and positive relationships. They want everyone to understand consent and respect others to prevent the serious, often devastating impact of sexual violence.

### **Supporting Your Child's Learning**

We know that conversations about relationships, consent, and boundaries can sometimes feel challenging, both for students and parents. Please consider discussing the material with your child to reinforce what they learn at school. You might find it helpful to ask them about what they learned or any questions they have.

If you have further questions or would like to view the presentation slides or materials in advance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're here to support your child's growth and ensure that they receive the best education in an environment that values safety, empathy, and mutual respect.



Thank you for your continued support in helping us prepare students for a safe, respectful future.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philippa Curtis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Philippa Curtis

Assistant Principal and DSL

