The Weald
community school
and sixth form

2 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Upcoming RHPD lessons

As part of our broader Personal Development curriculum, Year 8 will be exploring the wider topics of child on child abuse and ways to keep safe. Child on child abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and/or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age. In these lessons they will explore the following:

- Child on child abuse
- Sexual exploitation
- Cyber bullying
- Sexting
- Criminal exploitation

Online exploitation of children and young people is becoming more prevalent due to the significant rise in the use of social media, availability of smartphones and the use of online platforms by young people to communicate with their peers and others. In the last few years there have been increases in children seeking help from Childline due to child on child sexual abuse, and the latest reports from the NSPCC say that over a third of all police recorded sexual offences are against children. The issue has, understandably, been scrutinised in the media.

The increasing numbers of young people accessing online platforms such as Instagram and Snapchat leave our young people vulnerable to online exploitation, cyber bullying, relationship abuse, grooming and sharing of indecent images. Technology allows pictures and videos to be created, copied and shared at great speed and what may start as an innocent sharing of a photo with a close friend or a few close friends can result in images being shared outside a young person's network to the entire school community and, more concerning, way beyond the school environment.

Around the country this situation has led to perpetrators including young people utilising social media platforms to manipulate and intimidate other young people into situations in which they are not comfortable.

As a consequence, young people can end up in situations which are out of their control, resulting in social anxieties, bullying, blackmail and illegal acts taking place. Children and young people may also not be aware that the sharing and receiving of these images can mean they are committing a criminal offence and it is important to share this with them to prevent incidences of this type in the future.

As parents and carers you are in a unique position to share the concerns of child on child abuse

with your child and to highlight the impact and consequences of their decisions on their future, including the potential implications for future education and/or employment opportunities. These topics form part of our relationship's education, and as such the lessons on these challenging topics will be taught within a safe learning environment by trained teachers who will aim to be as sensitive as possible to faith issues whilst responding appropriately to the concerns and issues faced by young people in today's society. This part of our relationship, sex and health education programme will:

- Provide information about the law
- Explore and critique the attitudes that surround these parts of life
- Develop young people's skills to keep themselves and their friends safe

The up-coming lessons may reinforce what you are already discussing at home. Having open and honest discussions about relationships, sex and health helps your child to recognise the positive behaviours and to protect and safeguard them when they are ready to explore relationships, sex and sexuality.

Young people often operate very freely in the online world and by secondary school age some are likely to be living a substantial proportion of their life online. But we also recognise that parents and carers are the most important educators of young people in personal issues and many welcome the support that we as a school can offer to supplement their home teaching. Please contact your child's Head of House or myself if you have any concerns about the relationship, sex and health education programme.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Everest
Head of Character and Culture

