



Relationships Education/ Relationships and Sex Education, new statutory Guidance update and focus group

As you may be aware, the government have issued new statutory guidance for relationships and sex education in schools, which schools need to have in place by September 2026. At Castle School, we already go over and above the statutory guidance and are therefore already teaching most of the new guidance. New guidance that we already teach, includes, for example using anatomically correct body parts across the school, travel safety and accessing healthcare services, information for these lessons are included in these newsletters. There are lots of important additions that are now included in our planning for September, that weren't as prevalent when the 2020 guidance was published, for example more information about vaping, AI and a greater focus on online risks, as technology develops. We will continue to plan and teach lessons that are appropriate to each pupil's age and understanding, ensuring that everyone has access to a robust PSHE curriculum that sets them up for life. Please do ask Hayley, if you have any questions about the new curriculum. We are excited about the changes that ensure our curriculum remains relevant to life today.

The Castle School were part of the focus group, providing feedback to the PSHE association, on their updated SEN planning framework, which was very exciting! The new framework is going to be even better than the last one for our pupils, with an extra column to break up the steps further, for our learners with severe and complex needs, and lots more up to date information for all our learners, with greater focus on areas mentioned above. We have worked very hard, behind the scenes, and now all planning is ready to go for September! Students following the Adventure pathway, will continue with the PSE planning, and KS2-5 will follow the new, updated PSHE planning, from September. We are proud of the updated planning and know that it will ensure all pupils receive a robust and up to date PSHE curriculum, as Castle.

Celebrations of our learning this term:

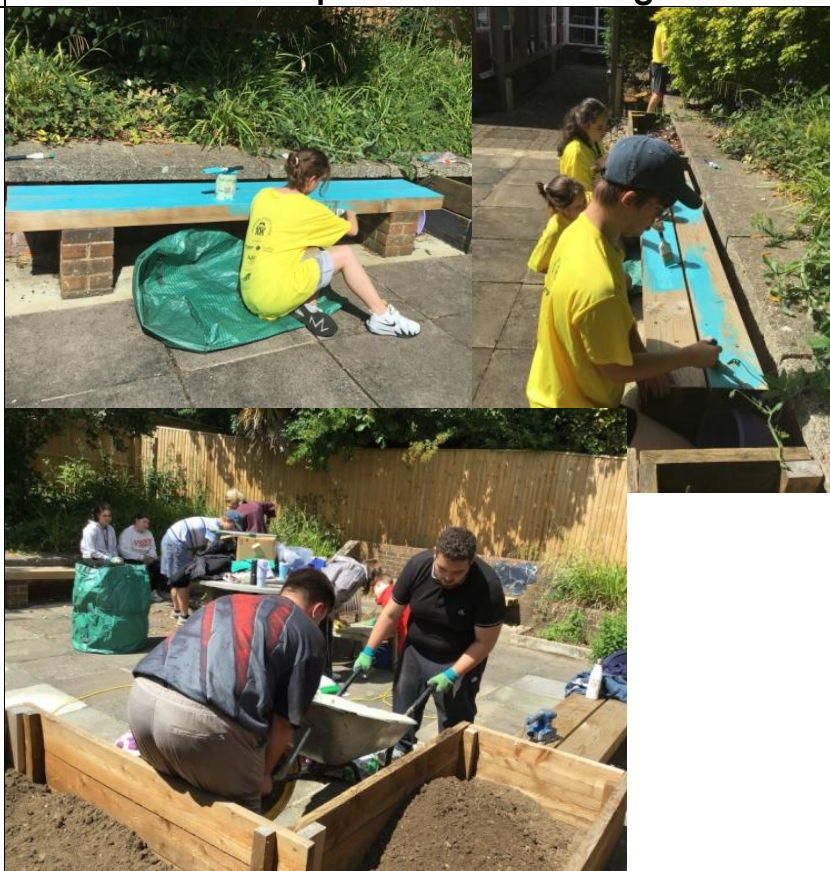
At the Castle School, we work really hard in PSHE, and have some celebrations to share with you:

We are very excited to tell you that the Post 16 WOW team are making great progress with the work for the Sensory Garden at Love Lane! **Thank you to the site team** for ordering the paint and compost, and for all their hard work with raising the beds and securing the fences and the structures.

The fabulous WOW students from Post-16, have come each week, all term for internal work experience at our Love Lane site. The students are working hard making the School Council's dream of a sensory garden a reality. They have got to work, weeding the raised beds, cleaning, sanding and painting. The area has been swept, weeds have been removed, the chairs, planters and table have been sanded, and painting is well underway. (They have been so busy they have asked for more paint, which is on order!)

Students have been doing an amazing job transporting soil into the planters. The group demonstrated good communication skills and great teamwork. We are looking forward to seeing the finished garden very soon. The group have painted the raised beds, tables and chairs and pergola, in the very colourful shades that the school council picked! The

Some photos of our learning



garden is now looking very colourful, and we are very excited! The WOW group are going to go shopping, with Martin, our green fingered caretaker, to buy some sensory plants for the garde, **thanks Martin. Thank you Post 16 WOW students; you are doing us proud! Thanks to the School Council** for being determined to make the sensory garden an inviting learning space for all students again. We are proud that they particularly wanted to get it right for their peers who use wheelchairs, ensuring the beds were raised to a suitable height (by our fab site team, and that the plants chosen **Thank you Friends of Castle** for funding this brilliant project, that will benefit our whole school community.

Staff are continuing to good use, their training on how to use the **Chailey Heritage RSHE programme**, which is designed to support our learners with severe and profound learning difficulties, to be able to access RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education,) using sensory stories, props, and anatomically correct dolls. Lots of classes are using the dolls to support their understanding of RSHE. Windsor class have been using the dolls to learn about how to say if they have a problem and have been using communication aids and core boards to do this. Well done, Windsor. York have also been doing lots of fab work with the dolls. Danby have been learning the importance of wearing deodorant, with the help of the dolls and a t-shirt with smelly raw onion armpits!

Just a reminder that everyone with an EHCP, age 14 plus, is eligible for an annual health check.

Here is some information from Dr Heather Howells , who is the GP Clinical Lead for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, for Berkshire West:

You may be aware that from the age of 14, everyone in a special needs school, is eligible for an Annual Health Check at their GP surgery. All people with a Learning Disability aged 14 and over should receive a check every year. The Annual Health check covers all aspects of health and wellbeing, you can learn more about Annual Health Checks here:

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/health/annual-health-checks>



We are proud to say that the Castle School is an Online Safety Certified School again for 2025- 26



Well done to all involved.

You can see our certificate in reception, along with some internet safety guides, which you can also download from the National College, or pick up from the display in the pastoral room. There are also some guides on our school website, in We have National College logins for all staff, so that everyone can help keep our pupils safe. All teachers, TAs and safeguarding leads completed their annual certificate for online safety again, at the start of the academic year, so that we can help keep our pupils safe online, and will complete this again in the Autumn term. Many staff continue to access other courses and seminars. Teachers are able to use the resources and planning to ensure that we are giving our students relevant and up to date online safety lessons, throughout the year. Lots of these resources are also including in the PSHE planning documents, and more will be added, to the updated planning, by September.

Some parents and carers have signed up and have completed courses have accessed important internet safety guides for their child. We are hoping that more parents will sign up soon. If you would like to sign up to help your child stay safe online, please do. We have put some useful courses in the watch list, once you log on.

We are sure that you will agree that online safety is so important to keep everyone safe, which is why we are committed to training our staff and giving our pupils the best possible lessons and care. We are looking forward to more parents joining us with our National Online safety journey. Teachers, TAs and leadership have all had their annual, online safety training and are using the resources to teach pupils.

If you would like a parent login, for National Online safety, (now called Wake up Wednesdays) to make use of the brilliant training and resources, please contact Hayley.

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