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Friday 7 October 2022

Dear Parent

Autumn Safeguarding Update 1

Though it seems some time ago now, I do hope that you and your family had a happy and safe summer and that the transition back to school has gone well. I write to you today to give you some key reminders around your child's safety inside and outside of school, update you on our personal development themes for this year and specifically this term, and share some helpful links to support you and your family in the weeks and months ahead.

Bereavement

We were all deeply saddened by the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, and I wanted to update you on some of the work that took place in school to support your children at this difficult time. All staff are fully trained in responding to and supporting children that are concerned or upset. Our training tells us that by projecting calmness and reassurance, we can reduce the anxiety that our young people feel.

Alongside this approach, form tutors shared information about the Queen and the new King and invited students to discuss their feelings and get support if they needed it. Our safeguarding team was particularly mindful of students who have suffered recent bereavement and will keep a watchful eye on them moving forward. Assemblies in the week commencing 12 September focused on celebrating the life of Queen Elizabeth II and discussing national feeling and reflection.

On Wednesday 14 September all staff received enhanced bereavement training to continue to support students who need it. If your family does suffer a bereavement, please do contact us so that we can support your child.

Personal Development and PSHE Curriculum

This year we have split each half term into a 'golden thread' that unites our safeguarding and Personal, Health, Social and Economic curriculum to ensure our young people are aware of what they are studying and why.

We start the new school year with '**Celebrating Diversity & Tolerance**', which will be taught in assemblies, PSHE curriculum time, personalised learning time with their form tutor and whole school events. Specifically, each year group will be learning about the following:

- Year 11 - Personal Wellbeing
- Year 10 – International organizations, AID & supporting other countries
- Year 9 – Exploring Racism, disability & discrimination and hate crime
- Year 8 – Exploring LGBTQ+ and Transphobia
- Year 7 – The importance of being kind, the Equality Act 2010 and challenging Islamophobia

To strengthen the messages of celebrating diversity and tolerance, assemblies will take place around Black history to mark Black History Month, and mental health.

After the October half term break, we will be focusing on anti- bullying, and I will write to you with more information at the start of that term.

Helpful Links

As you know we now have access through our website to my family coach. This is a bank of incredibly helpful resources and coaching that you and your family can access for free advice and support. This half term I would recommend you look at the following topics to support the academy with its focus of '**Celebrating Diversity & Tolerance**':

- [Teach Your Child to Respect Others and Themselves - My Family Coach](#)
- [Supporting Your Child if They Come Out as Gay - My Family Coach](#)
- [Supporting a Teen Exploring Their Gender Identity - My Family Coach](#)

My Family Coach also has some excellent advice on dealing with bereavement if you require advice on supporting your child or other family members.

Safeguarding Priorities

Please be aware that due to our location, our safeguarding priorities at Caister Academy continue to be:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Neglect
- County Lines
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour (national focus)

Finally, I wanted to use this opportunity to thank all parents for supporting the academy to keep our children safe. Not a day goes by without parents making us aware of concerns they have or observations that they want to share just in case it is the missing part of the puzzle. Please continue to contact form tutors in the first instance with this valuable information.

Yours faithfully



Miss Helen Seath
Vice Principal