

July 2021



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 8 and Year 9 students,

On Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 July a small selection of year 9 students will be working with Tender, an Arts charity that aims to prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence by promoting healthy relationships based on equality and respect. This will compliment Relationship Education during the school PSHE programme. These year 9 students will be removed from normal lessons for the duration of the two days in order to record a special assembly to all year 8 students at the end of the second day. This will be shown on Microsoft Teams to year 8 students during a Tutor Period by the end of the week. This project was done very successfully last year and the feedback from students and parents/carers was very positive.

Young people between the ages of 16-24 are at the greatest risk of experiencing domestic abuse and Tender works with students to help them understand the components of healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Tender uses drama and the arts to create spaces in which students can explore sensitive issues safely. Young people can "rehearse" situations in order to observe the consequences of their choice of action. They can "step into the shoes" of other characters and so develop empathy and understanding for how it *feels* to be someone else. This allows participants to address problems at a *distance*; discussing the problems of a character means they do not have to talk about themselves but can draw on their own experiences to understand the context of that character. Theatre and the arts is playful and creates a safe, open environment to discuss and learn about vital but challenging subjects. By playing a character or watching a performer, young people can then decide for themselves what is appropriate behaviour in a relationship instead of being told what to do or think.

The aim is to help students develop skills for building healthy and respectful relationships. We achieve this through open, creative workshops that explore the healthy and unhealthy aspects of friendships, empowering students to consider their attitudes and behaviour in an age appropriate way. The participants will become Ambassadors for healthy relationships at the school.

During Monday 12 July Year 9 students will:

- Identify what makes healthy and unhealthy friendships and relationships
- Identify safe and unsafe touch, and learn the NSPCC Underwear Rule
- Recognise their rights as children and developing human beings

During Tuesday 13 July students will:

- Increase their awareness of harmful practises such as FGM, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
- Offer appropriate support to their peers and seek support if they need it
- Film what they have learnt to show all of year 8 during a special assembly during the week

Headteacher: Andy Greenhough BSC (Hons) | Deputy Headteacher: John Chantry BA (Hons)

Claverton Down Road, Bath, BA2 7AD | Telephone: 01225 832936 | E-mail: enquiries@ralphallenschool.com | www.ralphallenschool.com

Ralph Allen School is part of Palladian Academy Trust (PAT) | Company number: 8061092



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

If you have any questions about a year 9 student taking part in the workshop, or a year 8 student viewing the assembly, please contact Mr Mellor (Curriculum Team Leader of Philosophy & Social Sciences) by email (j.mellor@ralphallenschool.com).

Alternatively, the Tender website may be able to answer any questions in the first instance:
<http://tender.org.uk/>

Yours Sincerely,

Joel Mellor
CTL Philosophy & Social Sciences

Headteacher: Andy Greenhough BSC (Hons) | Deputy Headteacher: John Chantry BA (Hons)

Claverton Down Road, Bath, BA2 7AD | Telephone: 01225 832936 | E-mail: enquiries@ralphallenschool.com | www.ralphallenschool.com

Ralph Allen School is part of Palladian Academy Trust (PAT) | Company number: 8061092