

Our Ref: 035/16

7th March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Next week, 14th to 18th March, is National ASD Awareness Week. During the week, there will be various activities which aim to help all of our students become aware of, understand and accept those with autism. Please keep an eye on our website for further details and information. We will be welcoming Alex Lowery in to school on Monday 14th March to lead a variety of workshops. Alex has a diagnosis of ASD himself. His website makes a very interesting read: www.alexlowery.co.uk

You are receiving this letter because your son has a diagnosis of ASD or is on the ASD Pathway. Please read below for the ticked activity which your son is being invited to take part in.

- Your son is being invited to take part in a workshop during Monday 14th March. The workshop will be with a small group of boys from the same year group with a diagnosis of ASD or on the ASD Pathway. The workshop will be led by Alex Lowery on the topic of growing up with autism and learning to embrace it.
- Your son is being invited to be a mentor for a group of younger students involved in the above discussions.
- Your son is being invited to take part in a workshop during Monday 14th March. The workshop will be with a small group of boys from the same year group with a diagnosis of ASD or on the ASD Pathway. The workshop will be led by Alex Lowery on the topic of how autism has affected his life and how he has become a young and independent adult.
- Your son will be part of an audience within an assembly for Year 8 and year 9 students informing them about autism, embracing it, living independently and reducing any stigma attached to it.
- Your son will be part of an audience within an assembly for Year 12 students challenging the stereotypes and misunderstandings of autism.

Please ensure that you are happy for your son to take part in the above event (s). The event may take part at the same time as a lesson. There will also be form time activities at various points through the week. It would also be very useful to know if your son is aware of his diagnosis/placement on to the ASD Pathway. Sessions are not compulsory but we would encourage you to discuss with your son what the session involves, as noted above, so that he feels comfortable attending. Your son will be given a time slip on the day of the event informing him where and when to attend.

So that plans for next week can be finalised, I would appreciate you informing me if you and your son agree to him attending either by using the reply slip below or via email before Thursday 10th March at 3:30.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Pritchard

SENDCo



REPLY SLIP TO: MRS K PRITCHARD

Name: _____ Form: _____

Please tick the relevant option:

- Yes, my son and I agree that he will attend the specified workshop.
- Yes, my son is aware that he has a diagnosis of ASD.
- Yes, my son is aware that he has been placed on the ASD Pathway.
- Yes, I am happy for my son to be part of the audience in the year group assembly (Y12, 8 and 9 only)

Signed: _____ (parent/carer) Date: _____