



28th July, 2017

Dear Parents,

We are about to commence a unit of work with Year 9 on 'Healthy Choices: Sexual Health'. The unit covers NESA outcomes relating to *'attitudes, behaviours and consequences related to health issues affecting young people'* (Strand 3- Individual and Community Health- Outcome 5.6).

During some of the lessons we will be working through the study series, *'No Apologies – the Truth about Life, Love and Sex'*, produced by Focus on the Family.

Our unit rationale states:

'From a Christian perspective, all relationships of any type need to be grounded firmly in love. This is the perspective from which the intimate relationships will be explored in this unit. Beginning with an understanding of the love that God has for us and how the outworking of this enables us to in turn love others, is the first point to be explored in this unit. In God's plan, He has designed a variety of age appropriate friendships, and from these friendships a more intimate relationship with one person may develop. This in turn leads to the selection of a life partner.'

'God has designed marriage as the starting point of family. The boundaries under which God designed such an intimate relationship will be discussed and explored to identify why these guidelines are given. Many of the problems, hurts and confusion that young people face today can come from engaging in a sexual relationship outside these boundaries. Gender expectations, stereotypical behaviours and societal norms will be explored and critiqued in light of Christian values and biblical principles.'

While we will be discussing abstinence, STI's, contraception, influences of the media, internet and mobile phones, pornography and many other issues, the emphasis is on supporting students to make healthy life choices. As we seek your full support, please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any concerns you may have.

Yours in Christ,

Bill Hetherington and Jann Osborn
PDHPE teacher and School Chaplain