



Personal Development – Living in the Wider World Spring 1: The Wider World

Headteacher - Caroline Lowing

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Thornden School, our Personal Development (PD) curriculum forms an essential part of our Safeguarding Curriculum, supporting students to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to navigate life safely and responsibly. Each half term, students explore a different theme. In Spring 1, the focus moves from Relationships and Sex Education to Living in the Wider World.

This theme helps students understand themselves, others, and the wider community, while building the values, behaviours and practical skills needed to thrive both in and beyond school.

Why This Matters in Year 7

As students settle into secondary school, they begin developing their identity, their understanding of respectful interactions and their ability to make informed decisions. These lessons help students reflect on their priorities, build healthy self-esteem, and understand how the world around them — including media and online content — influences their beliefs and choices.

This Half-Term's Topics

Your child will explore:

1. Why is it important to treat others with respect?
2. How do I know what are wants, needs and real priorities?
3. Why do we need self-esteem and how can we build it up?
4. Why can't we always trust what we see in the media or online?
5. Introduction lesson: What is race and racism?

All lessons are carefully designed to be age-appropriate, inclusive, and accessible, using high-quality resources to ensure accuracy and sensitivity.

Intended Impact

By the end of the term, students will:

1. Understand the importance of respect and positive interactions with others

2. Be able to distinguish between wants, needs and priorities
3. Build a stronger sense of self-esteem and resilience
4. Think critically about online and media content
5. Develop an early understanding of race, racism and fairness

Thank you for your continued support in helping students become responsible, thoughtful and respectful young people.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AT', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Adam Thomas
Deputy Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead