

ACADEMY SCHOLARS LIFE SKILLS 3: SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

1. INTRODUCTION:

A recent front page story on "The Metro" tells of the huge increase in sexual health problems. Other reports echo this same theme.

This element of the "lifeskills" course deals openly with some of the issues linked to sexual behaviour. It is not intended to tell you how to behave, but rather to make you aware of information, sources of help, and to prompt you to think through some ethical, medical and pastoral issues.

* Firstly some information:

VD : Venereal Disease

STD : Sexually transmitted disease

STI : Sexually transmitted infection.

HIV : Human Immunodeficiency Virus

AIDS : Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

Examples of STI's / STD's are chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhoea.

You will all fully understand the terms :

PREGNANCY

CONTRACEPTION

ABORTION

* Secondly, Dr Steve McNally, the club doctor, knows vastly more than I do about the health issues relating to sexuality and is always willing to listen or to talk , to answer questions or give medical advice. Local hospital clinics are contactable by telephone for personal appointments. I am obviously available to you for pastoral conversation and support if anyone needs that !

2. AN IMAGINARY SITUATION:

" You are in a club. It is 01.30 on a Saturday night, well actually Sunday morning !
You are dancing with an attractive young lady whom you met a couple of hours ago.
Well, actually she met you with the old line "do you want to buy me a drink then ?"
You did, you got talking then dancing and there you are two hours later !

You ask her where she lives, if she needs a lift home, and she invites you to come
back to her place for the rest of the night !

How do you react or respond ? "

** Any comments on the above ?*

3. THE MEDIA and the TRENDS in STDs.

In the autumn of 2005, the BBC TV programme "Panorama" looked at how the NHS
is being swamped by a rapid rise in STI's.

In December 2005, aol. on its "lifestyle/health" pages, picked up this same issue.

In 2006 and 2007 there was increasing government evidence of a growing problem in
the UK. Last year, 2008, was no different: . STD infection rates in the UK are
generally rising . Consider the reports provided.

** Do you have any comments on this ?*

4. HIV / AIDS

What do you know about HIV/AIDS ?

This infection is devastating many third world countries. Consider the aids orphans of
Uganda.

Why is HIV / Aids such a problem in Africa?

It is also increasing in the UK:

People known to be living with HIV in the UK :

May 1998: 31, 625

November 2007: 65,000+

** Any further comments on HIV/AIDS ?*

5. MATTERS WHERE OPINIONS DIFFER:

The issues of sex before marriage, contraception and abortion are viewed differently by different people.

The issue of "sex before marriage" may raise differing opinions.
The issue of "abortion" also raises contrasting viewpoints.

**Would anyone like to comment on the moral issues of sex before marriage, fidelity within marriage?*

** Would anyone like to comment on the moral issues relating to abortion, as they see them ?*

6. MORE FICTIONAL SITUATIONS:

* One of your team mates , who shares digs with you, says he's worried that he has caught a STD.

*What do you say to him ? How do you advise him ? Are there other issues to be considered? Or do you simply tell him to forget it and get on with life ?

* Another player tells you that his girlfriend told him she was pregnant, with his baby, so now they should get married. The player wonders if an abortion is the easiest solution.

*What do you say ?

* How do you react to a lady who says she wants to remain a virgin till she marries, or to another who invites you to spend time at her flat any evening you wish ?

*What can help us find our own moral code ? Is it good to have an outline ethical code in life, your own personal morality ?

* If you had issues to resolve while here at MUFC , are there people you could go to for help or advice, or even just someone to talk to ?

*We are all concerned that you could feel that there was no-one to help !

7. REASONS "TO BE CAREFUL":

* Health Reasons:
STD's can be caught.

* Responsibility Reasons:
Sex can lead to pregnancy and to fatherhood: Do you want to be a father now ?

* Financial Reasons:
Government legislation makes fathers, even absent fathers, contribute to childcare!
Like 20% of your income !

* Publicity Reasons:
Do you want to hit the front pages of the Sunday tabloids ?

* Moral Reasons:

Do you have a moral code to follow ?

8. YOUR VIEWS:

Q1.

Do we need a moral framework for our lives?

Yes ? No ?

WHY ?

Q2.

Without such a framework, do our lives, does society, suffer ?

Q3.

Are there benefits and challenges to us as individuals, and to communities, if we do have an ethical code to base life upon ?

Q4.

Are there consequences to moral decisions or actions ?

Q5.

What other areas of life might challenge us morally ?

Honesty ? Care ? Responsibility ? Others ?

Q6

Do you think there are such things as “right and wrong”

Can you give examples?

Are rights and wrongs found in all areas of behaviour?

Even in relationships, in sexual behaviour?

9. CONCLUSIONS:

Life is full of moral choices, but young players from MUFC might be faced with sexual behaviour issues more than most. Think ahead. Sort out your own ethical code and always consider the consequences of any actions. And be aware of the support for you at MUFC.

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