

## Email to all Parents/Carers from Mr Elphick 8th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I thought you might be interested to see what we sent to all students this morning as our first step in a rapidly developing plan for BGS to make a sustainable, long term response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Best wishes,  
Steve Elphick  
Headteacher

Dear student,

I have been in correspondence with a number of students both past and present in recent days regarding the Black Lives Matter movement and associated protests, complicated, unfortunately, by the pandemic restrictions. I have been very moved by what you are feeling and saying and by your determination to make the world a better place.

You may have seen a statement I placed on the website at the weekend to demonstrate our school's collective commitment to eradicating racism in all its forms, including a full review of our curriculum.

I would like to mark a beginning to this commitment by producing a special edition of the newsletter to celebrate the Black Lives Matter movement. I've been struck by the powerful responses of many of you to the BLM campaign and your determination to embrace positive change. I hope that a chance for students and staff to contribute to a special newsletter this week will help us to work out our responses and help us to commit to a much longer term resolve to eradicate racism in all its forms from our community behaviours and from our curriculum.

We need all your contributions to go through a member of staff in the usual way, otherwise Mrs Arundel will have an impossible job of putting it all together in time. So if you would like to contribute something to this BLM special edition, please email a member of staff with whom you feel comfortable to communicate. I am asking staff to contribute too, perhaps to offer the wisdom of increased years and maybe to tell of what we are already proud to be doing in the school to eradicate racism. I'm just a little worried that we are going to be overwhelmed with the number of articles we may receive!

To mark the occasion, Mrs Arundel has kindly extended the deadline this week to Thursday lunchtime to attempt to publish on Friday afternoon. But if you want to guarantee that your article gets a place, it would be prudent to submit your contribution by Wednesday...

This is the first step of what I intend to be a genuine, long term commitment by the whole community working together. As I have declared in my website statement, there has never been a better time to stand together and tackle injustice in all its forms. To do this properly will involve many months ahead but I believe a powerful special edition newsletter, dedicated to Black Lives Matter, would be a strong start on which to build.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Elphick

Ref 409234711

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