



BROOKVALE GROBY LEARNING CAMPUS

Valuing Everyone, Achieving Excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Like many of you, I have been following events and demonstrations taking place across the world following the murder of George Floyd, and have spent a great deal of time considering the wider issues that they have raised for all of us. They have brought to the fore the longstanding and deep-rooted issue of racism, which we must all face and address.

As a school, we are committed to being actively anti-racist. Our community is diverse in many ways, and this diversity brings strength and opportunity. The notion that children or members of our community would be judged on anything but their hard work, achievement and character is abhorrent to me and to my colleagues. Racism is something that we must all strive to defeat, and recent events across the world should serve as a reminder of the urgency of this mission.

As teachers and school staff, we all want the very best for our children. We recognise that education is the most important tool in overcoming discrimination - fear and ignorance fuel racism, and we must work hard to ensure our children have the knowledge and skill to question racist views wherever they may encounter them. It is by helping children to understand the world that we will enable them to be the critical and creative thinkers that we so want them to become, and this has been central to the thinking behind our new curriculum over the last year.

We recognise that the National Curriculum, GCSE and A Level subjects do not adequately represent Black, Asian and minority ethnic history or the achievements of people from these backgrounds. This is why we have recently conducted whole staff training on unconscious bias and all students have had their first assembly on Black Lives Matter. Last month was Black History Month, students were educated on Black individuals who have influenced the lives of those who live today. We are also continuously reviewing our plans for assemblies and topics over the next year to better address histories and issues relevant to our community.

We are absolutely committed to doing all we can to stamp out racism. But we know that we do not have all the answers. I speak to you as a white man who cannot tell you with authority about what it feels like to be racially abused. Whilst I have actively fought racism all my life, and tried to educate myself by listening to those with first-hand experience, I recognise that we need to actively listen to our community about how to eradicate racism. I have appointed the Faculty Leader of Humanities, Vicki Varney, as a link to the Senior Leadership Team tasked with ensuring the views of the community are listened to. As part of this Vicki will look at our curriculum, our response to racist incidents in school, and our messaging to our community, amongst other things.

We want to know how to get anti-racist education right, and want to make changes urgently to ensure that we are addressing racism head-on and with all the resources and ideas available. Please get in touch with me directly if you would like to contribute. We are a strong community - this period of closure has shown us that - and we must work together to tackle this issue.

Whilst talking about racism can feel uncomfortable, it is vital that we help our children to understand. If you are finding it difficult to talk with your children about racism, or if you or your children are struggling with the emotional impact of this topic, please take a look at this fantastic [parent's guide](#).

I speak for all staff at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus when I say that I stand in solidarity with every Black, Asian and minority ethnicity pupil and parent in our community.

With kind regards,

Will Teece
Headteacher