



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope you and your family continue to be well in this challenging time.

As I am sure all of you are aware, last week saw the death of George Floyd on the street of Minneapolis in USA. George Floyd was an unarmed black man, who was killed while he was being held under arrest.

As you can imagine, this has sparked a range of emotions within our Academy community with many of our young people reaching out to staff for discussion and support, as I know they will have been doing with you at home. I know that it has shaken all of us to our core.

I just wanted to let parents and carers know that whilst also reflecting as a staff body, using some shared materials, we have also sent a communication to students with a comprehensive set of materials for them to work through. There is a **lot** of material in the presentation so we have encouraged students to split it into smaller chunks to ensure that not only are they able to process and reflect on the points contained but that it also doesn't become overwhelming. If we had been together as a community we would have had the opportunity to present directly to students and ensure they had avenues for support and discussion afterwards as these events often cause a range of emotions in all of us; acutely so in young people.

Whilst the materials are hard hitting in places they are designed to cause reflection and discussion as well as prompt future thought about what can all do to further equity for all. We have encouraged students to discuss their thoughts on the materials and this incident in particular with their family and have said they may even wish to work through them with you at home for shared discussion, reflection and support.

As a school community we are fortunate when we look around to see such diversity each and every day. We also have values as a school that bring us together as a richly diverse community and for that I am immensely proud. We can use this to help each other and to build upon for our future work.

With best wishes,

Cameron Shaw
Principal