

April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the past year, the tragic deaths of George Floyd and Sarah Everard have sparked societal reflection of issues of equality, diversity and inclusion. We are actively raising our commitment to these matters with posters, assemblies and in RSHE lessons.

We are a school with students with origins in many different countries, which has always contributed to our diversity and inclusivity. However, this is a moment in time when we must reflect on how we can uphold the highest standards of respect, tolerance and justice in our community, especially by listening to our current and former students, and their experiences. What has become clear over the past year, is that racist and sexist words, along with actions, still take place across society and, very sadly, in schools. It is imperative that all schools do more to educate young people and ensure that we do our part to alter society such that all people are treated safely and fairly, with dignity and respect.

We are aware that the vast majority of us are kind and respectful, and are distressed by the idea that anyone should act in a disrespectful way towards other members of our community or wider society. Nonetheless, now is the time to ask difficult questions, to listen and think carefully as a community to bring about change.

Students have been proactive in speaking to staff at Newmarket Academy about these important issues, and we will use this coming term for more discussion and exploration. We have groups of staff and students who have been involved in discussions around anti-racism and gender inclusivity.

We are always reviewing and adding to our RSHE programme and will ensure that discussions this term reach all year groups. Beyond focussed discussion groups and RSHE lessons, the events of the past year are a reminder that we owe it to each other to always be respectful. Furthermore, each one of us has a duty to ensure that we do not tolerate anything but the highest standards of behaviour from those around us, in school or out of school.

We are confident that our students will go out and make the world a better place, help to eliminate injustice, and solve problems that previous generations have not. The world will become safer and more comfortable for everyone, regardless of their age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, race or sex. Let's all continue to strive for that better world.

Yours faithfully



Ms E Wilson
Head of School