

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Black Lives Matter**

Dear Evelyn Grace Academy students,

Our school exists to provide you with an education that helps you live happy and successful, personal and professional lives. We believe that by helping you become cleverer and kinder we will help you achieve this goal. We also know that a tremendous strength of our school is the harmonious relationship between students from a broad range of backgrounds, cultures and religions and this enriches all of us for the better.

As a community, we have been deeply shocked and saddened by the death of George Floyd in the USA. The global protests have served as a reminder that no matter how much racial inequality there continues to be, millions of people are standing up and challenging this injustice.

There are so many injustices disproportionately affecting black communities over any other. There is inequality in education, employment, the criminal justice system and many other areas of social life. One of the purposes of our school is to tackle this injustice and provide the kind of education that will empower our students to secure good financial futures. Now is a good time for us all to reflect on our contributions to challenging and correcting these injustices. We can make our contribution to this within our own school community.

So here are some things we can do:

- Research the history around the Civil Rights movement to understand the roots of injustice
- Research the different inequalities that exist for the Black community in the UK
- Produce some art or poetry to reflect your feelings about this continued racial injustice
- Listen carefully to the stories of our black community in the UK to fully understand their experiences of injustice
- Support black voices so that they are not alone in calling out injustice

### **Take a step forward and have your voice heard – use SMHW or email to submit your stories and ideas to your Head of House:**

- Students in our black community - tell us your stories! Have you, or someone you know, experienced injustice? Have you experienced hope where you have seen someone overcome any racism they have faced in their lives? How are we doing as a school to give black voices a place to be heard?
- All students - we celebrate Black History Month but that's not enough. What we can we do throughout the year to ensure the equality of Black Lives? Provide role models? How do we positively celebrate cultures alongside understanding the continuing impact of slavery today?

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# Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

We wanted to write to you all to let you know that although you may not be sat in front of us in class, you are very much in our hearts and minds. We are working extremely hard to ensure that your learning is not affected and that you continue to make progress whilst at home – striving for excellence. We have also been working very hard assessing how we can keep you all safe when we return to school and want to reassure you that your health and safety is very important to us.

There can be no substitute for face to face teaching from your teachers, and we are really looking forward to welcoming Year 10 back into the building next week. In the meantime, please continue to work hard and complete all the work you are being set online. We have been sharing your very best work as a staff in our weekly bulletin. We've been very proud of so many of your submissions. We cannot wait to see your submissions in response to the Black Lives Matter agenda.

We are proud of each and every one of you for who you are and what you do. We cannot wait to see you and for our community to be together again.

With every good wish.

Tim Dainty  
Principal  
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

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*Excellence, Endeavour and Self Discipline*