



Message from Mr Maltby

16th October 2020

Good afternoon,

October is Black History Month and next Wednesday's Enrichment lesson will be dedicated to this important issue. It will include a celebration of individual achievement made by men and women from the BAME community.

As Headteacher, I am fully committed to ensuring our school community is both tolerant and inclusive. One of my first actions was to update our school's equality policy, a copy of which can be found on our website. In this policy you will see I am focusing on the need to reduce the number of racist or homophobic comments. Although such comments are rare in our school, it is important we have a zero tolerance approach regarding any prejudiced behaviour; and that this objective is to be achieved through our curriculum planning and the promotion of positive images of diversity.

I have also established an equality working party and one of our collective aims is in ensuring that our curriculum resources positively reflect diversity. I want to ensure all our students can see themselves in the learning resources we provide.

I recall what it felt like being a gay teenager in a comprehensive school in the Midlands in the 1980's. This was a time when Section 28 was introduced and I understand how it felt like to be an outsider who was not provided with both the safety and the support that all teenagers deserve. Thankfully so much has changed. However, I never want any student in our community to feel such isolation. It is of vital importance that all our students feel safe in their school; by which I mean safe to themselves. I also want all students to feel proud of their identity and of their cultural and social background. To beyond acceptance to a celebration of difference. And I believe we collectively have the actions and drive to make this possible.

I wish you all a great weekend.

Tom Maltby
Headteacher