



June 19th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we welcome years 10 and 12 back on site and move into the next phase of our Virtual School, seeing our students on-line for Academic Support, assemblies and Form Time, it feels extremely important to write and reflect on how we ensure we stay true to our mission of Belonging Together during these challenging times.

The terrible killing of George Floyd in America on May 25th has led to unprecedented support and recognition internationally for the Black Lives Matter movement. Here at Colmers, we recognise that the current situation will be causing heightened distress directly to many of our colleagues, students and families. If you have a concern about the impact of these events on your child, please do make contact, we are here to support.

Belonging Together is not just about words for us as a school community: it means that we work hard to understand different perspectives and consider what more we can do to break down the barriers and harm caused by racism and all other forms of prejudice. We know that young people are often being exposed to extreme views on social media and it is important we work with you and our students to help them avoid the risk of radicalisation. If you have any concerns about this for your child, again please do not hesitate to contact us.

It is a core part of our job in school to raise the levels of understanding and knowledge of the inequalities in our society and to help our young people become part of the solution to these deep-rooted issues. Over the coming weeks and months, we will be reviewing how we ensure equality is actively promoted in our curriculum and through our actions and words. I will be inviting BAME, (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic), staff, students and parents/carers to help shape and inform our work on anti-racism.

At a time when suffering is so great during this Pandemic, I hope you will join with us in working with your children to create a just society for all, a society in which we value our differences, promote respect and work together to reduce inequality.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Leaman
Headteacher