



Monday 15th June 2020

Dear Current pupils, parents, alumnae and friends who have signed the open letter to PGHS,

We were grateful to receive your letter today, having already received the original featuring Pemiwa's research. As you know, at PGHS we are committed to equality for our pupils, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability or any other individual differences and since the tragic killing of George Floyd and the highlighting of injustice towards the Black community, we have been looking for ways to make our School better. Whilst we as leaders of the School will be responsible for implementing the change, we feel that it is essential that the building blocks of that change come from the pupils as well as the staff. We would like to reassure you that we are by no means 'remaining silent' but working carefully to ensure that the correct voices are heard.

Last week we reached out to Pemiwa and today were able to meet with her to discuss her experiences as a Black pupil both here at PGHS and at sixth form and university. We talked about pupil perception, unconscious bias, staff role models and what we can change, alongside what we are already doing that is inclusive. We are delighted that Pemiwa has agreed to continue to work with us moving forwards, and more importantly work directly with our current pupils.

Those of you who are current pupils know that we launched a Senior School questionnaire to explore pupil's experiences and observations and to ask for their thoughts on how we make our School better. We will be working with the information received to develop curricula, displays and resources. The staff are already auditing their Schemes of Work and resources and looking at where changes need to be made.

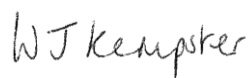
Pupils in Year 11 have been working on a Black Lives Matter project and this afternoon submitted a video, which will be sent out to the Senior School tomorrow. They will continue to work with the Senior Management Team on developing awareness and creating a legacy that will continue to run next academic year. It is essential to us that we don't react quickly, but respond carefully and with commitment.

At PGHS, as you state, there is a *special ethos where individuals are nurtured, successes are celebrated and their contribution to the community is greatly valued*. This is evident in the response of you, our School Community, and the passion that you feel for this essential change.

Changes **will** be made but we will not rush them. We need to take the time to **listen** to our pupils and our staff. We need to make sure that the changes make a difference and a positive one.

We keep our School motto at the heart of everything we do, "By Love Serve One Another" and are thankful to work with such a diverse, vibrant and caring group of pupils and staff and we look forward to an even better future, where all lives will matter **because** Black Lives Matter.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Kempster (Mrs)
Headmistress



Hannah Lucas (Miss)
Deputy Head