



**Hove Park School**  
"Together We Achieve"

Nevill Campus: Nevill Rd, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7BN  
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Email: [office@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:office@hovepark.org.uk)

Mr Jim Roberts- Headteacher

15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are hugely proud of having one of the most diverse school communities in Brighton and the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, has moved us all to stop and reflect. It is important to acknowledge the strength of feeling that both staff, parents / carers and students have expressed.

In responding to the events in America and the protests that have taken place both locally and nationally, I believe we have a responsibility to continue to look at what we do to ensure everyone in our community feels valued, with an optimism and ambition for their future.

Over the last academic year, we have given focus to a process of listening and engagement with different groups of students as part of our equalities work, but there is still more to do. As Assistant Head teacher with a wider school responsibility for Equalities, Ms Vermeer has been working with a group of BAME young people, to ensure talking leads to actions. As a result of this work the following events and activities have happened.

### **Whole school Equalities day**

- Our first Equalities day got all students thinking about the Equalities act and what it truly means to be equal. Students discussed gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality and disability as part of a series of workshops led by a mixture of Hove Park staff and external speakers. Of particular note was the BAME workshop, which was jointly planned by a group of students to ensure it delivered the content that students believed was most important to their lives, when looking at race and ethnicity.

### **RISC workshops**

- A series of workshops were run by RISC (a global educational team) with a group of Year 9 students. The content included; allowing students to share

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their experiences of culture and identity, and explore broader contemporary and historical contexts. Their student voice has continued to influence the review of the school's equalities policy and supported the planning for our *Equalities day*.

### **Food Festival**

- As a celebration of the ethnic diversity we have at Hove Park, the students organised an international food fair. A group of student volunteers from the Nevill Campus prepared a huge variety of foods that they felt were part of their cultural identity, some also chose to wear traditional costumes as music from around the world was also played. All students and staff were invited to sample the fantastic array of delicious food that had been prepared. The students also raised money for a local charity that supports BAME young people.

### **Latest TV**

- A group of students in Year 9, 10 and 11 were offered the opportunity to make a series of television programmes with a local company, Latest TV. So far, the group have completed making the first two programmes, recording them at a professional TV studio. The themes explored include; culture, identity, and food. We hope to be able to continue the series with future themes around music and dance and their personal experiences of growing up in Brighton. The programmes will be aired later this year.

In addition,

### **BAME Uni:School mentoring programme**

- The programme matches BAME Brighton University students with BAME pupils at Hove Park. The six-week programme consists of 1:1 mentoring sessions for BAME students, once a week for five weeks. The final week of the programme consists of a visit to the University, where mentees have a careers information session and are

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able to take part in fun and informative tasks aimed to increase their knowledge and understanding of University culminating in a celebratory event.

### Staff training

- In the autumn term we welcomed John Lynch (Head teacher in junior and primary schools in Croydon and Brighton for 25 years and since retiring in 2013, a consultant on closing the gap strategies for BAME students) to provide staff workshops on *unconscious bias*.

I have provided the examples above not to claim our work in this area is done, but to emphasise our determination to make a difference. The themes of equality and racism also form strands of our PSHE curriculum that all students study in their Learning for Life provision.

As part of our continued commitment to reviewing our curriculum, I have asked Ms Prentice (Senior Deputy Head teacher) along with Heads of Faculty to look carefully at the books we study, the artists we explore, the role models we use to exemplify achievements and success, to ensure it is truly reflective of our community and modern society. I have also asked Heads of Year to provide opportunities for students to discuss how best our school can respond, as part of their year group school council meetings and build on the work that our Equalities champions have started.

The images we all saw have stirred strong emotions, and rightly both students and adults are demanding to have their voices heard. Whilst we are closed for the majority of students we nevertheless want to send our thoughts and support to ensure we are part of the conversation about change.

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In the midst of a pandemic it is important we continue to address these issues and not allow the current situation, as challenging as it is, to deflect us from this responsibility.

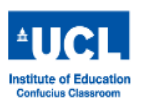
Best wishes,

Jim Roberts, Head teacher

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