



An All-through Co-operative School  
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Dear Students and Families

Whilst we may not physically be in the school, we remain a community that is fully aware of all that has been affecting our students and their families during this difficult time. We do know that if we were still in school, we would be having these conversations with all of our students. As a community, we would be listening directly to their concerns and needs. Whether it be in the classroom, at lunch, in the playground, in assemblies or at the school gates; there is always an outlet to discuss and listen to our community's needs. Indeed, the opportunity to hold these important conversations is something sorely missed.

Based on the current events, it feels right to address the student body directly and address the whole school community. We are aware that everyone will be having thoughts and feelings about these difficult times.

The government has finally agreed to provide the much needed report of the CoVid-19 impact on the BAME (Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic) Community. This is particularly important to us as a community, due to the very high rates of cases that Brent has suffered. The overrepresentation of the BAME community in CoVid-19 related deaths, has also highlighted social injustice and inequalities across the nation that need to be put right.

Indeed, the current events that have followed the sad death of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter protests that have taken place all around the world bring me to the words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. : *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away, and that in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine..."* I know that the optimism of our Preston Manor students will be the vehicle for change.

Whilst we may not all understand the different anxieties that our individual communities are experiencing, we all do understand the importance of standing strong together and supporting our communities in any way we possibly can. It is with this in mind, that I am pleased to be meeting with key staff to plan opportunities for different student and staff forums to take place which will:

- Provide space to discuss emotions raised at this time
- To use students voice proactively for optimistic change
- To promote a united Preston Manor Community



In the next few weeks, we will begin to collect students thoughts and suggestions on how Preston Manor can continue to support an anti-racist community. Equality is something we unapologetically stand by at Preston Manor School and we want it to be a place where all feel safe and can be positive agents of change.

Kind regards

*Ms Kobel*

Ms Kobel  
Headteacher

