

8th June 2020

Dear all,

Welcome back to the second half of the summer term, we cannot believe this academic year is almost near the end. We hope you all had a well-deserved break over the May half term, albeit an unusual one. It has been a difficult couple of terms, but you are all dealing with this new way of learning so well.

We, as the Holt head girl team, feel that now, more than ever, we must utilise and recognise the platform we have to share an important message. We are proud to be part of a very diverse school community, who recognises and values every individual; therefore, we believe it is essential to use this platform, which we're privileged to have, in a way to help educate and share a very important matter.

To start off, we would like to share with you this quote by Nelson Mandela:

"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

As many of you are aware, there have been recent protests over systemic racism and police brutality in the US, with the 'Black Lives Matter' movement fighting against the long injustices and discrimination against the black community.

Protests began in the US on May 25th, after the death of George Floyd and it has deservedly sparked a worldwide outrage, with thousands demonstrating and protesting in streets across cities around the world.

Although there has been widespread awareness raised about this issue on social media, as we are sure many of you have seen, it is simply not enough without meaningful action to back it up. It is not enough to be non-racist; we need to be anti-racist.

In this day and age being a passive bystander and staying silent is not good enough. Remember, as Desmond Tutu powerfully said, *"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."*

Whilst addressing and spreading awareness on problems is essential, we have the ability to voice our thoughts and opinions to make a change for the better.

This can be done through signing petitions and donating funds but most importantly educating ourselves.

Below is a table, detailing some of the action that you can take:

What can I do?	What will this do?	How can I do it?
Make a donation	Donating helps to fund crucial action, such as striving for civil liberties, raising further awareness and achieving justice.	Black Lives Matter - https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms_blm_homepage_2019 American Civil Liberties Union - https://www.aclu.org/action/
Sign petitions	Signing petitions forces political leaders to take action and achieve justice	Black Lives Matter - https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/#petitions/ Justice for George Floyd - https://www.change.org/p/mayor-jacob-frey-justice-for-george-floyd
Educate ourselves and learn	Understanding the history, context and extent of racism in the US and the UK is key to helping us to fight against it together	To read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So, you want to talk about race – Ijeoma Oluo - White Fragility – Robin Diangelo - The Clapback – Elijah Lawal - The 1619 Project – From the New York Times To listen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1619 - About race with Reni Eddo-Lodge To watch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13th : found on Netflix - American Son: found on Netflix - When they see us: found on Netflix - “Let’s get to the Root of Racial Injustice”: Ted Talk (Please note: The Netflix films are rated 15. Parental guidance is recommended.)

You must think about your social responsibility, treat everyone with genuine respect and humanity regardless of race. We must actively pursue and act to create a more equal and just community, so that no matter our differences, everyone is accepted, equal and comfortable to be themselves without fear of judgement or discrimination.

At The Holt School, we pride ourselves on the intolerance of prejudice, ignorance and injustice in all its forms and we must promote the values of equality, tolerance and justice. We are one big community; we have a social responsibility to uphold and we must use our voices to speak up and fight for justice. We are the future and together we must stand in solidarity.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Yours sincerely

Head Girl, Abi Turner
& her deputies, Maddie Dowling, Phebe Dowse, Abi Mills and Tamanna Steven