



Violet Walker <vwalker21.302@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>

Fwd: Recent events in the news

1 message

Violet Walker <v.walker@qegschool.org.uk>
To: AllStaff <AllStaff@qegschool.org.uk>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 4:31 PM

Dear All

I hope my email finds you well.

Please see below an email I have just sent to all students which many of you will also have received as part of the year teams. I wanted to reach out to students at this time when riots against racism are happening in the USA. I wanted our students of all races to know where we stand and also to acknowledge that many of them will be feeling mixed emotions ranging from hurt and shock to anger. I wanted to alert them to avenues of support. I am mindful that we are a staff body representative of our multiracial community and I want to extend the same care to all of you. Please avail yourselves of all the school's support systems should you need to and let me know if there is anything further that I can do to support you on this or any other issue.

Best wishes

Violet

Violet Walker

Headteacher

Joint President ASGS

**Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School***Educating Women of the Future*

High Street, Barnet, EN5 5RR

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Violet Walker** <v.walker@qegschool.org.uk>

Date: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 4:23 PM

Subject: Recent events in the news

To: Y7-2019 <y7@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>, Y8-2019 <y8@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>, Y9-2019 <y9@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>, Y10-2019 <y10@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>, Y11-2019 <Y11@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>, Y12-2019 <y12@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>, Y13-2019 <Y13@gapps.qegschool.org.uk>

Dear Students

I hope my email finds you and your family well at this time. I am aware that our school community has had varying experiences within the confines of the Government's expectations on staying home for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable or shielding, staying alert, social distancing, Key workers, those who cannot work from home, those businesses recently allowed to reopen and the use of public transport. Some of our community have been personally impacted by COVID-19 and very sadly some have lost loved ones.

As young people you will be rightly concerned about your education, how it is being impacted and how in turn your future is being impacted. No doubt you have thoughts about when we will return to school and when everything in life will be "back to normal". I know you will also be mindful about the health and wellbeing of your family and friends. All of these thoughts may well be impacting your own wellbeing. Throughout this period of distance learning we have sought to provide you with activities, information and links to websites and organisations that will support your own

wellbeing, through your Heads of Year for example. We have encouraged you to communicate with your teachers via Stream on Google Classroom. I know the current situation is challenging and that distance learning is not easy for everyone. I know that you cannot all access devices when you would like to, or perhaps not as much as you would like to. You may have fallen behind with work through circumstances beyond your control, including feeling overwhelmed by everything going on around you. I want you to be confident that when we are back together in school, you will have every opportunity to catch up with your learning.

Quite apart from COVID-19 and school, my thoughts over the last eight days and those of everyone on the staff have been consumed with emotions following news and social media posts in response to the abominable death of George Floyd in the USA. I know that you too, like us, will all have had different reactions ranging from shock to anger. If we were in school I would have taken assemblies, again to talk about the Equality Act 2010 and specifically racism as one of the nine protected characteristics. This blatant action of a police officer is not a unique occurrence. The action and the fact that it is not unique have reviled people all over the world, as they should. My assembly would have also considered the questions that society must now ask of itself.

Our school is multiracial, multicultural and we celebrate those facts; we promote a culture of inclusivity. In saying we educate women of the future, we could not do otherwise than to oppose racism and challenge prejudice and bigotry. Each and every life matters equally; no less #blacklivesmatter, a movement very much in our thoughts at present. Please continue to use the information, links we have shared previously and the Stream Google Classroom communication network to share your thoughts, to express your feelings openly, to support yourselves and to ask for further support should that be helpful to you.

Every good wish to you and your family.

Violet Walker

Headteacher

Joint President ASGS



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