

# AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Aylesburians,

Along with millions of people across the world, our school community has been deeply affected by the death of George Floyd and moved by the Black Lives Matter campaign. We have already begun to reflect on recent global events with our community in our commitment to equality, diversity and human rights. We acknowledge we must continue to fight all forms of racism and discrimination in our society and in our school.

As Headmaster, I am committed to doing all I can to ensure we do this as part of the upholding of our core values: respect and aspire. In accordance with those values we are resolved to reflect and change appropriately. We have instigated an Action Committee of current students, staff and Old Aylesburians to ask challenging questions of our curricula and wider practice. We celebrate the diverse nature of the School community and are united in our determination to reflect our community in all aspects of school life. The committee will work with the School to ensure we meet our obligations in law and in humanity.

It is important to acknowledge that some of our lived experiences will always limit our ability to fully appreciate how difficult it must be to face any form of discrimination. We want to engage with the experiences and voices of our BAME students and staff in order to continue the fight for justice. To ensure every member of our community is treated with respect and can achieve their aspiration. In response to correspondence from our concerned Old Aylesburians, to whom we will be replying directly and collaboratively in a separate letter, anyone who wishes to contribute suggestions to the Action Committee to develop our practice and policies can contact the school using our dedicated email address [equality@agb.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:equality@agb.bucks.sch.uk).

Growing up in the time of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, I was a young man in a divided society. I vowed to myself to make the world better. It is vital we all now do this not by messages to ourselves, but actions towards others. While much has been done, we know there is also much for us to do and this starts by listening and learning.

My sincerest hope is that we can continue to understand, respect, and celebrate whilst recommitting ourselves to strengthening an inclusive community where every person feels welcome and valued.

M Sturgeon  
Headmaster

Recent events in the US and around the world have revealed what has often been shrouded in our society. As a black student in AGS, and as Head Boy, I have been in close contact with various members of staff and students regarding this matter - offering my advice and guidance where necessary. It has brought me comfort knowing that my concerns are shared within the AGS community. The current Head Boys, the SLT and other passionate students have, in response to the movement, acted swiftly to enact plans to review the inclusivity of all aspects of school - curricular and extracurricular. From my first year in AGS to my final year, it has been clear to see the school is more diverse now than ever before. It brings me comfort, as a school leaver, knowing that all students in AGS will have their voices heard. As a society, racism and prejudice should not be tolerated. As with many institutions, the school still has many more steps to take to achieve this goal, but I have faith that under the leadership of passionate anti-discriminatory students and staff, the school will be a better place for all.

Denzel Asamoah (Head Boy of School 2019-2020)

Global events have recently shed light on the issues of racism, prejudice and discrimination that exist within society. They have also stressed the importance of being proactive in advancing equality, as opposed to simply standing against inequality. AGS recognises the impact that students have in their voices and actions to help in the fight against these injustices that are prevalent in many areas of society, including within schools. Through the Action Committee, students like ourselves will have a greater impact on the school's curriculum, taking advantage of our academy status by learning about what is right rather than what is historically perpetuated, and in a way that is more beneficial to us, for example, concerning our understanding of historical issues and how they affect us in the present. Through our scrutiny of all subject areas, we aim to address cultural and historical biases in the national narrative and instil key values that will help to shape young minds. Students will also have a platform to suggest ways in which the School can continue to challenge instances of discrimination and can improve in the push for equality. As students, we realise the power and responsibility that our education has in shaping the way in which we see the world and look forward to seeing AGS lead the way to creating a more fair and just society.

Tobi Dairo (Deputy Head Boy of School 2020-2021)

Ben Harding (Head Boy of Denson House 2020-2021)

Ethan Odukoya (Deputy Head Boy of Phillips House 2020-2021)