

**Open letter to the Hinchingbrooke School Community  
Fully endorsed by the ACES Board of Trustees**

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear students, parents/carers, colleagues, governors and others

## **Ensuring equality at Hinchingbrooke School**

The Black Lives Matter movement has focused the attention of people across the world on the discrimination that people of colour have suffered for centuries. We know that discrimination of all types continues, and we are determined to do even more to prevent it from happening in our own school. As a school we should be proactive in understanding how these issues affect our own community and challenging inappropriate attitudes and behaviour.

Our school community includes over 2000 people from a wide range of backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, faiths and many other characteristics that make each one of us unique and special. To be part of the Hinchingbrooke Community is to accept and value our diversity and to actively uphold everyone's right to be treated with respect and courtesy. Despite that, we know from some of our students and staff that they have experienced poor treatment at times, for example because of the colour of their skin, their country of origin or that of their parents, or some other attribute or characteristic; and that is not acceptable.

As a school, we are renewing our commitment to

- Celebrating our diverse community;
- Promoting understanding of, and respect for, the differences between people;
- Actively challenging prejudice and discrimination when they occur.

We have already started this work: we are currently reviewing and amending our curriculum, especially in subjects such as History - but we know that we can do more, and we can do better; this needs to be a long-term commitment on the part of the school. So, we also intend to appoint a member of staff to the post of '**Diversity Champion**', to lead the work that we will do from Autumn 2020 with the aim of our school becoming a beacon of excellence for our Equalities work.

Kind regards,



Mark Patterson  
Principal