



4 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I last wrote to you in April to share the launch of our 'Keeping in Touch' strategy. This has proven to be a great success and I know that Academy staff enjoy speaking to you and our students to find out how things are during this challenging time. Through these calls, we have been able to help families both academically and pastorally and I must urge you to continue to share any worries and concerns you may have now we are in the final term of this academic year. It is also a time when staff are able to celebrate the positive acts of our students: completing outstanding pieces of work, helping around the home, clapping for Carers and praising their engagement in a variety of interform challenges as organised by their Pastoral Teams. I would like to signpost you to our school Twitter account (@SPA_Greenwich) where you will find our social engagement and celebration of students.

The work Heads of Years have undertaken through daily and weekly emails to their year groups is commendable. However, there is a limit to how successfully certain aspects of life, including current affairs, can be addressed through emails. Most recently, the death of African American George Floyd in Minneapolis has brought to the fore the racial inequality our world still faces. This has sparked huge protests across the US and other parts of the world against racism and the police killings of black Americans. The vast majority of demonstrations have been peaceful, but some have turned violent.

Today Pastoral Teams are meeting to discuss how we can remotely support our students in navigating such important yet sensitive issues. As always, we will adopt a consistent approach across all year groups and provide a forum where students can safely explore their own views and opinions and discuss what they have seen in the media and how they can - if they choose to - offer support.

The power of social media is great and when used appropriately, it can be such a positive platform but I would like to take this opportunity to remind you as parents and carers to monitor what your child is accessing and the views and opinions they are exposed to. If you come across something which you are concerned about, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year.

I hope you are well and continue to stay safe.

Kind regards,

Michelle Hepburn
Behaviour Lead

