

7 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware one of our ASPIRE core values is **Respect - We are polite, tolerant and kind to each other**. We reinforce this message in many ways through the school curriculum, assemblies and rewards system. An area of 'respect' which we would like to raise awareness and understanding of is the use of prejudicial language and the impact that this can have on individuals.

This half term we will be introducing a 'Call it Out' Campaign, to help tackle incidents of prejudicial language. Prejudicial language is when a person uses words that attack one of the core protected characteristics in society. These are characteristics such as gender, race, religion, sexuality and physical or emotional conditions.

Nationally there is an acute awareness about a growing intolerance with a rise of 65.4% of reported incidents across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight last year.

In the news, we have seen national stories, such as the murder of Sarah Everard by a Police Officer. This murder began with whatsapp messages which were demeaning and derogatory towards women. There has been a growing number of violent attacks towards the LGBTQ+ community and unfortunately ingrained racism is still experienced regularly, as seen with the stop and search of British Athlete Bianca Williams, who was stopped by police because of the colour of her skin.

It is our job, as educators, to ensure that we are making it clear that there is no place for prejudicial language in society and what can start off as perceived banter can lead to very serious consequences. At its core, prejudicial language can be classified as a hate crime.

This half term we will be focusing on this area and continuing to educate students as to the importance of treating each other with respect. This will start with specific assemblies which I will deliver and will be followed through in tutor time and in lessons.

Although we know this does not necessarily affect everybody, as they do not do it and do not receive such comments, to support all students feeling able to report any incidents that do occur, we have set up a dedicated email address callitoutMC@iwef.org.uk. This does not replace the preferred way of raising concerns by talking to tutors, teachers or other staff; this is purely an extra mechanism that can be used, should a student feel more comfortable doing this.

I would like to highlight that alongside educating our young people, any student caught using such language could, as a consequence, face isolation at least, and if deemed serious enough, be reported to the police as a hate crime.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support to ensure Medina College continues to be a safe environment for every member of our community.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Pearce-Jones
Head of School