

4th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

You may be aware that a demonstration is due to take place in Victoria Square, central Birmingham, today at 4pm, where hundreds of people in our communities are expected to gather to show solidarity with the 'Black Lives Matter' movement.

This is an issue that is affecting us all deeply. At Jewellery Quarter Academy, we say loudly and clearly that Black Lives Matter. We are proud to be an Academy where all are welcomed, respected, treated equally and cared for.

We hope that today's demonstration will be peaceful. We recognise that some of our young people will want to join in solidarity alongside our community and communities across the world. However, we know from past experiences that demonstrations, unfortunately, do not always remain peaceful.

Our number one priority is to protect our students; your children, that is why we ask that they find a way to have their voices heard which does not risk their safety. Today, we encourage them to stay home and stay safe, in line with the government's current guidance on social distancing and to avoid large gatherings. To show our solidarity with our friends across the world who are the victims of racism and discriminatory injustice, today we have launched a leadership programme: Role Models Matter, with a focus on 'beating the odds'.

We pledge to challenge racism in all its forms and create young leaders of tomorrow to lead the change. Our Thursday Thoughts session today looked at overcoming racism is a positive way, paying tribute to the memory of George Floyd. We hope that your children came away from the session with some reflections of their own and ideas about how they can unleash their own talents.

Please stay home and stay safe. As ever, if you would like to speak to us about any of these issues, please contact me at JQA in the usual way, by email or telephone.



Mr. G. Williams - **Headteacher**