

Dear All,

In the wake of recent times we are sure you are all aware of the international conversations raised upon the matter of race and equality for all. As your Senior Prefects we feel it is only right for us to use the platform we have to address this problem to the Cranleigh School community. Our hope is that as privileged young adults attending a school such as Cranleigh you are inspired to become young leaders. It is not simply good enough to be bystanders, sitting back and letting someone else deal with it just because it doesn't seem like it's "your problem". Well, it is. In order for the culture at Cranleigh to progress and beyond that, for society to advance past this vastly outdated discrimination and prejudice on the colour of someone's skin, we need to address it, together.

As a school predominantly made up of British white people, we will never truly understand the oppression and injustice that black people and other ethnicities have experienced and are still currently experiencing. Therefore it is very important that we, as a school community try our very best to educate ourselves on racism such as how to prevent future racism and protect black people from discrimination. Many of you may think that the main problem is in the US however this is a worldwide issue and racism most certainly exists in the UK.

To begin with, we want to explain the matter of white privilege and why saying 'all lives matter' in a time such as this is very problematic.

Firstly, white privilege does not mean white people struggles do not exist, it just means that the colour of your skin will never be one of those struggles.

To those who don't understand why saying all lives matter is wrong, black lives matter doesn't disregard that all lives matter but it does mean right now black lives are in danger and black people need your help. If this still does not make much sense here are a couple of analogies:

- For example saying "All Lives Matter" as a response to "Black Lives Matter" is like saying the fire department should spray down all houses in a neighbourhood even though only one house is on fire... because all houses matter. Yes, your house matters too, but your house is not on fire.

OR

- If you were at an event supporting people with breast cancer no one would run in and scream all cancer matters.
- A simpler version is like crashing a funeral and shouting I've lost someone too.

To help you educate yourselves, we have compiled together a list of books to read, must-watches, social media accounts to follow etc.

BOOKS TO READ

- *So you want to talk about race* - Ijeoma Oluo
- *Me and white supremacy: How to recognise your privilege, combat racism and change the world* - Layla Saad
- *Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race* - Reni Eddo-Lodge
- *Becoming* - Michelle Obama

- *How to be an antiracist* - Ingram X. Kendi
- *Queenie* - Candice Carty-Williams
- *The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the hostile environment* - Amelia Gentleman
- *Don't touch my hair* - Emma Dabiri
- *Girl, woman, other* - Bernadine Evaristo

MUST-WATCHES

- *The Hate U Give* (Amazon Prime)
- *12 years a slave* (Netflix + Amazon Prime)
- *When they see us* (Netflix)
- *Dear White People* (Netflix + Amazon Prime)
- *Straight outta Compton* (Netflix + Amazon Prime)
- *Hidden Figures* (Amazon Prime)
- *13th* (Netflix)
- *16 shots* (YouTube)
- *Crime + punishment* (YouTube)
- *The death and life of Marsha P. Johnson* (Netflix)
- *Let the fire burn* (Amazon Prime)
- *I am not your negro* (Amazon Prime)

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS TO FOLLOW

- @pullupforchange (Instagram + Twitter)
- @consciouskidlib (Instagram + Twitter)
- @laylafsaad (Instagram)
- @ckyourprivilege (Instagram)
- @colorofchange (Instagram + Twitter)
- @showingupforracialjustice (Instagram + Twitter)
- @ukblackpride (Instagram + Twitter)
- @nowthisnews (Instagram + Twitter)
- @activismandstuff (Instagram)
- @foreverfeminism (Instagram)
- @gaytimes (Instagram)

UK BLACK OWNED BRANDS

FASHION

- Wales Bonner
- Mowalola
- Saul Nash
- Bianca Saunders
- Monad London
- Yeezy

BEAUTY

- LIHA Beauty
- Beautystack

- Skimdo
- Epara

HOME

- gal-dem
- New Beacon Books
- OOM
- Satta

DEPOP BLACK SELLERS

- @youthclubstore
- @soldsoles
- @janettojo
- @maevehardware
- @shoptumzavelli
- @scaar1xt
- @colebound
- @shopdesert

We hope this email will help you educate yourselves and inspire you to take more action to prevent racism and injustices towards black people. We strongly encourage that you start conversations with friends and family and challenge those with racist views.

Here are a couple of quotes to inspire you further:

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” - Desmond Tutu

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” - Martin Luther King Jr

We are determined not to let this movement become a thing of the past and as such we are working closely with both SMT and your Senior Prefects next year to ensure Cranleigh addresses this international problem and becomes a leading school in fighting racism. In order to incite change it starts with us, young people becoming educated in the matter so that we can strive and teach equality for many generations to come. You are all leaders.

Thank you and any comments, questions or thoughts you may have please do not hesitate to email the both of us at corbol2015@cranleigh.org and clemki2015@cranleigh.org, we would love to hear what you think.

Ollie and Kitty