



19 March 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, and Pupils,

A Letter from the Head, SLT and Chaplain

In our bulletin last week, we thanked the pupils, including from our Amnesty group, who, on the day we returned to on-site learning, helped us reflect on the importance of International Women's Day, and of choosing to challenge prejudice. It was a theme taken up in Tutorials across last week and is integral to the education offered at Truro School. One week later, the importance of the issues raised have been amplified following the murder of Sarah Everard. Aggression, violence, intimidation, and the harassment of women or girls, are abhorrent and have no place in a civilized, modern society.

The Prime Minister has recognised the need for a "cultural and social change in attitudes" to tackle abuse and prejudice. As a place of education, Truro School has a responsibility not only to challenge injustice and inequality, but to teach and model equality, diversity and inclusion. We seek to do this in many ways, including via our PSHEE programme. A key purpose of that programme is to educate and encourage pupils to respect others, and themselves. RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) is part of this programme and we have already been in active consultation across this year with pupils and parents over how to modernise our approach to RSE.

As a school with a Methodist foundation, the importance of inclusion, respect, and tolerance should be ingrained in all we do. As well as our pupil led Amnesty group who do fantastic work to raise awareness across our community, we have been running an Equality and Anti-Racism steering group since September 2020, consulting with staff, pupils and wider stakeholders, and working towards recommendations for how to continually develop our school culture and practices.

We are not and never will be complacent about matters of equality, be that gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, or other. This week we have been encouraged, however, to see the celebration of many of the women of the Truro School community, past and present, evident in the latest edition of the Truronian, to be released next week, and this in a year when we will be proudly welcoming in September a full first year cohort with an exactly even gender balance.

Our strong Pastoral team, led by Mrs Ellison, are always here to listen to any pupil who has concerns they would like to share. Similarly, we are keen to engage with those who have experience or insight into ways our community may be able to do better. We value the diversity and inclusion that already exists in our school community, and are fully committed to the respectful and ongoing improvement of it.

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Head

S Patterson
Head of Prep

E Ellison
Deputy Head
Pastoral

S Pope
Deputy Head
Academic

K Topping
Business
Director

J Grigg
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E Mitchell
Director of Teaching &
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R Henderson
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A de Gruchy
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