

## Moat Community College's Statement in Response to the Tragic Death of George Floyd.

We are shocked and saddened by the death of George Floyd in the United States. The appalling death of George Floyd has brought to the consciousness of millions the deliberate actions of institutional and engrained forms of discrimination that are the result of systemic racism in our societies.

We want to support our students to make sense of this tragic event. We have asked some of our students to write down their thoughts on this event and the wider issues around racism. We have shared these with you at the end of this statement.

We would also like to educate our students and staff further on the issues of racism, prejudice and injustice. We have shared links to some books and articles below. These can be used by our students, staff, parents and community to understand the issues and to play a part in building a better society.

We are a diverse school, and we educate for equality, justice and respect. We stand united with our staff, students and families in actively opposing systemic racism, prejudice and injustice

### On Line Resources

(Thanks to our English staff and Miss Gillain for identifying the material)

- 1) Copies of the following texts have also been uploaded to the student library in Teams:
  - To Kill a Mockingbird
  - The Bluest Eye
  - The Color Purple
  - Noughts and Crosses

2) This is a link to a Q and A with the author of '**This Book is Anti-racist**'  
<https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/01/q-a-with-tiffany-jewell-author-of-this-book-is-anti-racist/>

3) There is an extract from '**Dear Martin**' here  
<https://www.getunderlined.com/books/534050/dear-martin-by-nic-stone/>

- 4) There are two short videos that are relevant to reading:

Interview with author of '**Booked**' (who also wrote 'The Crossover')  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCMA5z28gMk>

Author reads short extract from '**The Crossover**'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbMj6lG4shM>

5) This is an interview with Kwame Alexander and is an excellent stimulus for written work.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCMA5z28gMk>

## **Student Comments**

People aren't born racist; it's how they're brought up. Racism still perpetuates through ignorance and misunderstanding, and I believe school is the solution. Interacting with people of different cultures, races and beliefs enunciates the differences and excellence of diversity, whilst also diminishing the arrogance required to hold racist thoughts – thereby working towards a world void of any oppression, discrimination, apathy, bitterness, subservience, vitriol, and especially the root of it all racism.

**Waqas Ibrahim, Y10**

The World has reached a point where some people are scared to even step out of their houses because of the colour of their skin, whereas other people have the colour of their skin as a shield. Yes, all lives matter but in order for that to be realised, black lives have to matter. What racist people don't understand is that, at end of the day, we will all end up six feet under, we all bleed the same blood and we all breathe the same air, so we must unite together to be one peaceful world.

**Zainab Mussagi, Y9**

The number of murders of innocent black people in America by police officers, with no just cause is outrageous. Without question, they have murdered without justified reasons for doing so. The black community have been encountering racism for centuries now. We support them and everything they must *be* and have *been* going through and recognise that change needs to happen.

**Amirah Hassam, Y10**

Racism, wherever and whenever it may be, is completely unacceptable. It comes from a superior mindset that I do not understand, and society will no longer accept. Furthermore, we support any effort to educate and better ourselves in order to eradicate racism in its many forms and reject performative activism; any attempts to be better must be genuine, to make the world a better place.

**Yusuf Surti, Y10**

We recognise that the Black Lives Matter movement is a movement to promote the significance of black lives in order to gain social, economic and emotional equality and we support it because of this. This does not mean we are in any way standing against white people or think that they are bad people. But understanding the black experience is important for change and we know that police brutality and racism in any form, should not be tolerated.

**Abdullahi Abubakar, Y10**

People need to understand that whatever a person's race or religion, we are people with equally important lives, and we deserve to be treated equally. Recently there have been BLM protests and people have the right to be angry. Every person should be able to live happily and with freedom and should never be afraid to go outside because of those who don't understand the meaning of human rights. Racism needs to end!

**Azizah Alimuddin, Y9**

Racism is a disease in society that can affect you, me or anyone. Racism has affected many people, including me, and it continues to affect people's everyday lives. Racism is a catalyst for crimes, decisions and more daily. Crimes and decisions that affect us all. Racism itself is absurd no matter how it is spun.

**Nuradin Qanyare, Y10**