

Long Stratton High School

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Headteacher

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Achievement For All

5th June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

School Diversity Week 24th to 28th June 2019

As part of our continuing efforts to ensure our school environment is a place where every child can realise their potential, grow as a person and where all can achieve, we will be joining tens of thousands of pupils and teachers taking part in School Diversity Week 2019 to celebrate equality in education for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBTQ+) young people.

Growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBTQ+ young people. National data shows 40% contemplate suicide, 50% self-harm and 96% still hear homophobic remarks. This has a potentially life-long impact on young people's attainment and wellbeing. Alongside our anti-bullying and safeguarding policies, taking part in School Diversity Week is an important way of actively supporting LGBTQ+ young people in our school, and demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive school environment where every young person can be themselves and thrive. It is a chance to discuss with our students the importance of valuing diversity in the world we are preparing them for and to promote tolerance and acceptance of others – a core British value.

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a legal obligation to promote understanding about LGBTQ+ equality and challenge prejudice. In practice, this means raising awareness and understanding not promoting LGBTQ+ as a "choice" over heterosexuality. As a school, we are assessed on our approach to educating our young people about LGBTQ+ issues and combatting homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying (HBT). Involvement with School Diversity Week has been commended as an indication that a school is fulfilling these responsibilities.

If you would like more information about School Diversity Week 2019, organised by the charity "Just Like Us", you can find it at their website www.justlikeus.org. This is an annual event which helps remind us that Long Stratton is an inclusive community where difference is valued and celebrated as part of our ethos to be a community that develops personal growth, excellence and achievement for all.

What are we doing for School Diversity Week?

Non-uniform Day on Friday 28th June supporting Stonewall and Just Like Us

Pupils can come to school in non-uniform to show their support of diversity within our school community. They will be asked for a minimum donation of £1. The donation will be shared between two charities – Just Like Us and Stonewall (www.stonewall.org.uk), as this year marks 50 years since the Stonewall riots and 30 years since the Stonewall UK charity was set up. Pupils should wear whatever bright colour they choose (or rainbow colours), and can thereby express their support for diversity in their own individual choice of what rainbow colour to wear – a visual way of showing we accept that we are all individuals within a population whilst showing that we will not judge a person negatively because of their race, gender, gender identity or sexuality. The non-uniform outfit will need to be suitable for a normal school day, so shoes should be sensible and no inappropriately short or revealing outfits please. Pupils will need to be able to work safely

and comfortably in their lessons and assessments. Pupils can, of course, choose not to take part and attend school in normal uniform if they prefer.

Cake Sale Thursday 27th June and Friday 28th June

Please bake, donate and buy cake on Thursday and Friday of diversity week!

Last year we had lots of fantastic rainbow-inspired contributions – so please get inspired and be creative. However, any contributions will be gratefully received – homemade, bought, decorated, rainbow-coloured or monochrome! In the true spirit of diversity, we acknowledge we are not all the same, we like different things and need to respect each other's right to be who we are – including in our choice of cake! So, the more variety the better - any contributions will be a huge help – and increase the diversity!

Pupils from **Year 7 and 8 please bring cakes to school to sell on Thursday**, while **Years 9 and 10 please bring cakes to sell on Friday**. All donations of baked goods will be gratefully received and the money raised will be go to The Norfolk LGBT+ Project (www.norfolklgbtproject.co.uk), who amongst other things, have worked with Year 7, 8 and 9 in their Life Skills Days on the impact of name-calling and bullying.

If you have any questions or queries about School Diversity Week or diversity in general, please contact me for further information or if you would like to share feedback with us.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Claire Gallant
Assistant Headteacher