



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 18 | June | Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Parent/Carers ,

It has been two weeks since I last wrote to you, within which time a lot of national and international events have occurred. I would like to share some important updates and changes to be implemented soon, but also write to you about the racial justice we as a Federation and millions around the world are striving and fighting for.

## Plans for the rest of the academic year

It is now confirmed that there will be no return to school for our Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9 students this academic year. This means that home learning is even more important than before and it is imperative that this work is completed at home to the best of all students' ability. As there will be no end of year formal assessment, determining ability sets for next year will take the standard of work students are completing from home into account. I would like to encourage a real drive to further improve the submission rates for all of our students as well as the standard of work produced. We will need full parental support in order to achieve this.

## Year 10 phased return to school

I can also now confirm that **Year 10 will begin a phased return to school from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**. Thank you to the parents who have responded to the parent questionnaire, outlining your thoughts on this return and whether or not your child will return to school. If you haven't completed the questionnaire sent on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, please do this as soon as possible. I will send a separate letter to Year 10 parents next week, outlining the plans and sharing which days your child will be expected to attend school.

## Protest in London

Following the death of George Floyd, protests against systematic racism have spread around the world. We as a Federation stand in solidarity with our school communities and those across the world who are understandably angry, distressed and grieving. As I am sure you are aware, London has already experienced and is gearing up for further peaceful protests for the #BlackLivesMatter movement. We have created opportunities for our students to reflect on these current issues via online Head of Year assemblies which students will be able to view next week.

I would just like to remind all within our school community to ensure you remain COVID safe, if you choose to attend a protest. Peaceful protests are difficult when large gatherings are still banned across the UK under lockdown restrictions, and the coronavirus R-rate remains disconcertingly high. The central London locations of the protests will inevitably mean crowding on local bus and tube services, which also carries a risk in terms of spreading coronavirus. So please be safe and protect yourself.

There are also ways to show support without attending public events. Anti-racism charities you can support for this cause are:

- Show Racism the Red card
- Runnymede
- Stephen Lawrence Charitable trust
- Stand against racism and Inequality
- Kick it out
- Stop hate UK
- Coalition for racial equality and rights
- Discrimination Law association
- Race Equality first
- Black lives matter (UK)

**Our school Chaplain, Rev Dom, would like to share the following:**

**Christ Church East Greenwich have released the following statement on racial justice:**

*In response to recent events in the USA which have highlighted racial injustice across the world, Christ Church East Greenwich reaffirms its commitment to Gospel values of diversity and inclusivity as expressed in the life and ministry of Jesus. We recognise that racism, born out of ignorance, prejudice and hatred, operates across all levels of society. We recognise the work that needs to be done to eliminate the incalculable hurt and suffering caused by systemic racism in our community, our country, and our world. As a diverse church family, we stand in solidarity with those who continue to be oppressed because of the colour of their skin. We affirm our commitment to listen, to learn, and to take action against racism in all its forms to show God's love and justice for all his people.*

Through the Prophet Micah - God tells us to act justly, love kindness and walk humbly, obeying God.

May we pray today that our thoughts, words and actions bring peace, love and life to all.

Amen.

**Diocese of Southwark have released the following:**

Our churches are closed, our hearts are open #BlackLivesMatter.

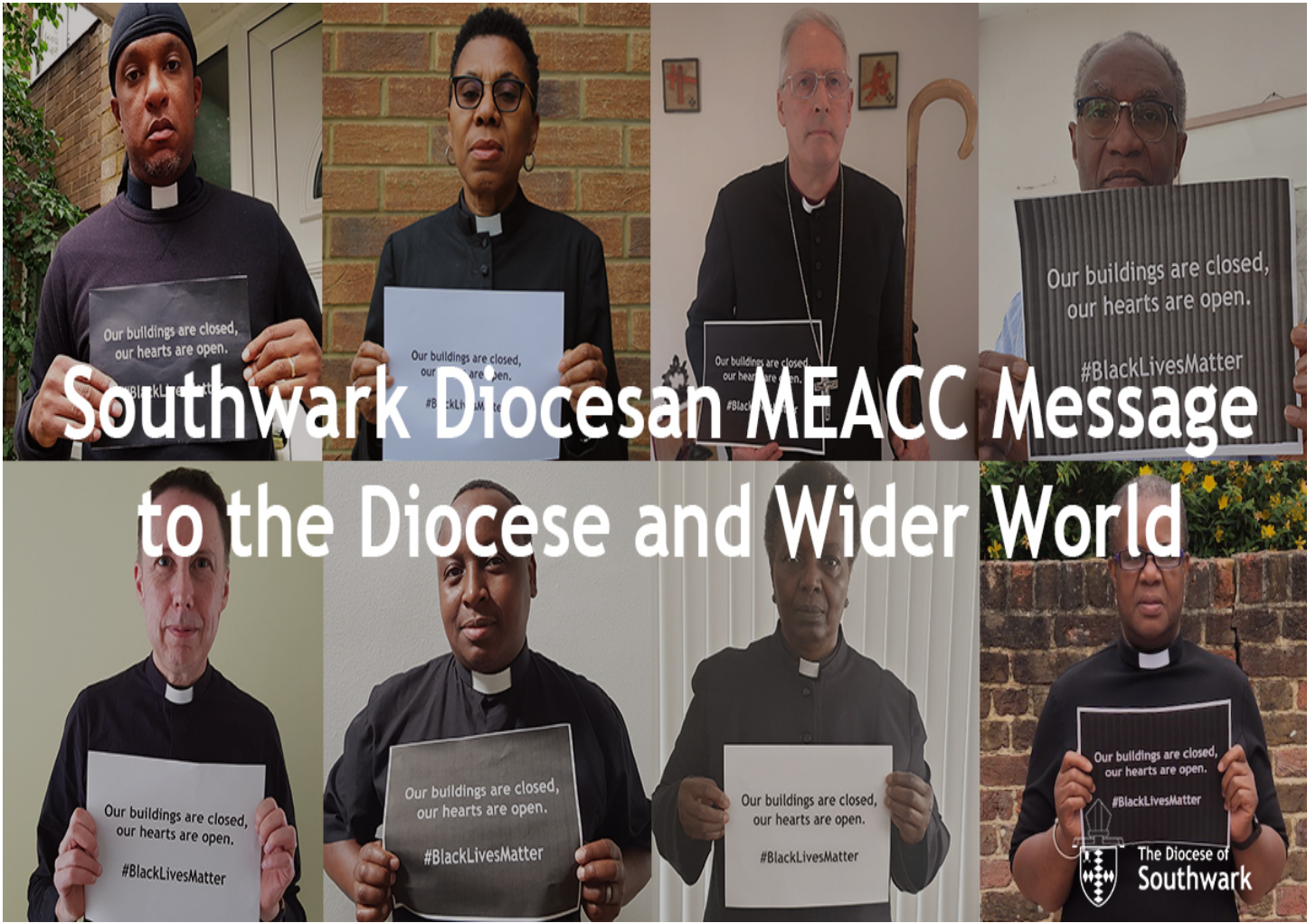
Bishop Christopher said, 'We wanted to stand in solidarity with those who are lamenting, praying and protesting about the death of Mr George Floyd in Minnesota. We hope that, by sending out this photographic statement of our firm belief that Black Lives Matter, we will encourage others in the Diocese and more widely to stand firmly with those who will mark next Monday 8 June which is two weeks to the day since George Floyd was killed. Racism is a blight on so many people's lives and the Diocese of Southwark, working through its MEACC, is committed to challenging and eradicating racism in all its forms.'

**Survey responses**

Thank you for completing the online responses to the proposed change to the school timetable next year. I can now confirm that the school day will start at 8.45am and end at 3.15pm from September 2020.

As I mentioned earlier, I will write to all Year 10 parents and students next week on Wednesday with a final plan and timetable for the phased return for students in Year 10. As we have done since the lockdown began, our family tutors and senior leadership team will continue to contact all students within our school; if you have any queries or comments to share then please do let them know.

Sincerely  
Mr R Hussain  
Principal



# Southwark Diocesan MEACC Message to the Diocese and Wider World

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our hearts are open.  
#BlackLivesMatter

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 The Diocese of  
Southwark