

8 June 2020



— THE —
ELMGREEN

Dominic Bergin BA(Hons) NPQH
Headteacher

Dear Families

Black Lives Matter

I am writing to you this week after a series of protests over the weekend around the Black Lives Matter movement. I recognise the importance of getting the tone correct when discussing this, but also wanted to be clear that the school will be examining this topic over the coming weeks. The importance of addressing this is summed up by one of my favourite sayings from the great Desmond Tutu when he said 'if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not thank you for your neutrality.'

It is vital that the school emphasises its commitment to ensuring that we are making a positive change for our community and that we are eradicating inequality wherever we encounter it. I have done a special extra assembly this week explaining what we are doing as a school and the reasons behind our stance. [Click here for assembly](#)

Families Forum

Thank you so much to all families who attended our virtual Families Forum last week. We had over 80 attendees and it actually felt like a really useful format, with people being given the opportunity to make comments as the presentations were going on.

Our main points of discussion were around the virtual learning experience. The feedback was largely positive with most of the issues being around the technical aspects of logging on. Please could I ask you to continue contacting admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk if you are still experiencing problems. If you still feel like your issue hasn't been resolved, then could you please email the same address, but ensure that it is for the attention of Mr Ryan. We have come a long way in a short time but of course accept that there will still be issues. The same process should apply to the live lessons if you are having any concerns in logging on or accessing them.

Please find the link to the slides from Families Forum [here](#) and we will be holding a further Parents Forum before the end of term.

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Year 10 and 12 Reopening

The other key issue from Families Forum was about the Year 10 and 12 onsite learning that is starting from next week. Families from those year groups will receive a letter in the next two days which explains when their child is in school. As I'm sure you have seen we can only have 25% of the combined Year 10 and 12 cohort on site at the same time so Ms McLaughlin and the Sixth Form Team have done an excellent job in dividing up the cohorts so that the learning experience is meaningful and safe. I know that many families will feel anxious about this experience but I can assure you that we have been as rigorous as possible in making sure that we have looked at all eventualities. I attach the link to our risk assessment [here](#) and of course families can contact the school if they have any further queries.

When I write to you next week, we will hopefully have a significant number of students in the building. That is an exciting thing for all of us here and I look forward to telling you how it has gone.

Until then please stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully



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