

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that your child/ren have settled back into school well and that they are enjoying their learning at SMRT.

I wanted to update you about our response to the Far-Right Riots that our Headteacher wrote to you about at the start of term. In that letter, Mr Planter wrote:

*As a school we will utilise expertise within the school, our Alive Curriculum, and the external resources available to us, to reflect and plan meaningful discussion. It is important that through their lessons and the wider experiences we offer, we continue to equip our young people to:*

- *Be critical consumers of the information they come across online.*
- *Be literate, articulate, and numerate.*
- *Secure the skills and qualifications to have a plausible stake in the economic prosperity of our country.*
- *Understand people and communities very different to their own and have an empathy for those who are the most vulnerable in our world.*

*We must also teach our young people about the abject poverty and hopelessness that blights our working-class communities of all colours and backgrounds. It is also important that they learn about the struggles of the most helpless on the margins of our society: refugees desperately fleeing war, the elderly suffering from loneliness, those ravaged by the misuse of drugs, and those experiencing serious mental health issues.*

To help educate students about this issue, we will be delivering assemblies to all students next week that will have a specific focus on recognising misinformation in the news and online, celebrating difference and challenging extremist views, these will be delivered by our Deputy Headteacher Mr Taylor. Alongside this, there will be some reflection and discussion in tutor times about how these riots have affected the local community and wider communities across Bristol and the UK. This will be shaped through 3 tutorials delivered during morning registration and worship time in the next few weeks.

The key learning points described above will also be covered in VIP (Values In Practice) lessons throughout the year but we wanted to take the opportunity to address this matter immediately.

Since students have returned to school, there has been support offered to all students who may have been adversely affected by these riots. This has included pastoral and therapeutic support where needed. Our chaplain has also been available to students who may wish to reflect, discuss or pray about the situation and consider how we can offer hope and bring light in what has been a difficult time.

Please be aware that your child/ren may want to discuss some of this at home and it may be raised in conversations after school. If any student would like to speak to a trusted adult in school, please encourage them to speak to their Head of Year or email us at: [safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)

Many thanks and take care

Mr Pike

Designated Safeguarding Lead

St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School