

An acknowledgment from Mr Lawlor - A call for change

As the leader of this School community, I have shared my reflections on an outpouring of comments about racism and CCHS. Now is the time for listening, renewal and change. I cannot erase the past experiences of any of our students; but what we can do, together, is provide a new channel where voices will be heard to direct and drive change. As the Headteacher, I want to express my deepest sorrow and apologies to any student, or member of staff, if you have ever felt let down, or if it seems as if you were not listened to, or thought you were not respected at CCHS.

What next?

I have always been proud of the collaborative and progressive culture within the School. I do not claim to have all the answers, and neither do School staff – far from it. We need to involve our community. The next steps need to be shaped and owned by all of us, as a collective.

Mrs Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher, will take on the role of guiding the conversations around where we go from here and we will be initiating these with students, staff, governors, parents and alumnae over the next few weeks.

We are listening

But before we announce anything further, I want to facilitate and encourage you to talk to us. We have set up an email address change@cchs.essex.sch.uk where students, present and past, can make suggestions as to how we can improve, do better, and move forward together.

Let me be clear: we do not and will not tolerate racism within our School community.

Final thought

I wrote in my message on Saturday that: “We are a proud community. We are not a perfect community. Our ambition is to continually improve, to make progress and to move forward, together.”

I want to acknowledge that there has been hurt and pain, and that these wounds need to be attended to. I humbly suggest that we best serve this important cause by working together.

Mr S. Lawlor
Headteacher