

May 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students

Diversity Week : Tuesday 8 – Friday 11 May 2018

Once again we are flying the flag for DIVERSITY! Westfield Academy, together with Darwin House, are proud to announce that we are hosting a week of events celebrating Diversity. This will be from 8-11 May 2018.

As you may know, we have been running this programme over the last four years, with much success. We have focused on different themes such as cultural diversity, discrimination and the impact of segregation. Students have been given the opportunity to take part in activities that expose them to other cultures and think about the society we live in.

Last year we focussed on the LGBTQ+ community. Since September 2016 we have been successful in setting up our own Pride group. This has helped to support students who identify as LGBT or who are questioning their gender, identity or sexuality. I am incredibly proud of the students who have made this group what it is.

This year we will be focusing on 'promoting the inclusion of refugees within society'. Often our views are shaped by the media, our friends and most importantly, our parents. It is important we give young people the opportunity to explore their own views. This can be through watching the news, encouraging reading and talking through any ideas.

We aim to promote diversity and inclusiveness within Westfield Academy. This is in line with our equality and diversity policy.

*"We recognise, respect and value difference and understand that diversity is a strength. We take account of differences and strive to remove barriers and disadvantages which people may face, in relation to **disability, ethnicity, gender, religion, belief or faith and sexual orientation**. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here."*

For further information about our policy, please visit the Westfield Academy website.

We invite all students to take an active part in the educational opportunities on offer. Our Diversity programme for 2018 is as follows:

Students have already been hard at work. We launched a 'Diversity badge' competition in early March. Entries were submitted on 13 April 2018 and the winner of the competition was Grace Palmer. Many congratulations! Grace's design has been made into the badge we will be wearing this year. These badges will be available to buy throughout the week for £1 from school reception.



Stiby Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3EP

Telephone: 01935 423747 Fax: 01935 411340 Email: office@westfieldacademy.co.uk

Teaching staff have been invited to merge our chosen theme into their lesson plans for this week.

Year 9 have also been lucky enough to listen to Henry Schachter's testimony. Henry is a Holocaust survivor who was born on the 5 March 1939. His parents, Rubin and Paula, were Polish from Galicia in south-eastern Poland. Both were taken to Malines (Mechelen) transit camp and from there were deported to Auschwitz on 19 May 1944.

Tuesday 8 May - All house teams have been asked to create a display providing information about refugees. *What are refugees? Why do refugees have to leave their birth place?* We want students to understand why some people cannot stay in their home country. This is often due to war and the fear of persecution.

Wednesday 9 May - Dr Orla Dunn, who is a Consultant in Public Health, will be visiting Westfield to deliver an interactive presentation to Year 8. This will involve a one-hour presentation including activities around '*refugees within our current society*'. If you do not wish your child to take part in this presentation, please contact the school by letter or email for the attention of Miss Martin.

Thursday 10 May - Students will be invited to look at the House team displays. A panel of judges will be looking for the best display.

Friday 11 May - Students will be invited to donate and buy baked goods for a cake sale at break time. Thank you to parents in advance for helping with this. All money raised will go towards the Diversity Programme for 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this year's Programme, please call, email or write a letter to Miss Martin. I always welcome any feedback or suggestions from parents.

Thank you to staff and students in advance for all your help in celebrating Diversity Week.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Martin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Miss E Martin
Head of House (Darwin)