

CWA/KRE

2 December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Stonewall Rainbow Laces Campaign

Plume, Maldon's Community Academy is taking part in the 'Stonewall Rainbow Laces Campaign' from 22 November until 8 December 2019. As part of our efforts to ensure our school environment is a place where every child can realise their full potential, we will be joining tens of thousands of students, teachers and athletes taking part in this campaign to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT+) equality in sport.

Growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBT+ young people: 40% contemplate suicide, 50% self-harm and 96% still hear homophobic remarks on a regular basis. This has a potentially lifelong impact on young people's attainment and wellbeing. Alongside our antibullying and safeguarding policies, taking part in the campaign is also an important way of actively supporting LGBT+ young people in our academy and demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive school environment where every young person can simply be themselves and thrive. It also provides a chance to explain to all our students the importance of diversity in the world we are preparing them for.

Under the Equality Act 2010, we have a legal obligation to promote understanding about LGBT+ equality and challenge prejudice. Ofsted will also assess our approach to educating our young people about LGBT+ issues and combatting bullying. Involvement with events like the Stonewall Rainbow Laces Campaign has been commended by Ofsted as an indication that a school is meaningfully fulfilling these responsibilities

The Stonewall Rainbow Laces Campaign 2019, organised by the charity Stonewall (Stonewall.org.uk), is an annual event with the support of 'TeamPride'. TeamPride members include: adidas, Aon, Aviva, eBay, Manchester United, O2, the Premier League, Sky Sports and Visa. Events kicked-off on Friday 22 November and continue through to Sunday 8 December with a multitude of activities across the sporting spectrum.

Some of the sporting governing bodies taking part include: British Basketball, the British Olympic Association ('Team GB'), British Cycling, England Hockey, England Rugby, the English Cricket Board, English Football League, Football Association, Great British Wheelchair Rugby, Premier League, Premiership Rugby, Professional Football Association, Rugby Football League, Scottish Professional Football Association, UK Athletics, Welsh Football Association and Welsh Rugby.

Sport, as I'm sure you'll agree, has an amazing power to bring people together. Following and taking part can provide us with a real sense of community, energy and that all-important sense of belonging. That's why we all need to play our part to make sport everyone's game. Plume, Maldon's Community Academy, is inviting students and staff to buy rainbow laces from the Student Support Centres for £2 and these can be worn in PE trainers or school shoes up until the end of term.

If you have any questions regarding this specific matter, do not hesitate to contact me via the academy switchboard or via A.Ollett@plume.essex.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Ollett

Head of Year 9 & Plume Academy's Stonewall Champion