Dear students

It has been an eventful few weeks which have presented the world with some challenges. We are all aware of the death of American George Floyd and the subsequent protests that have taken place across the world, notably in the US and Britain. These have occurred against the backdrop of the threat of coronavirus and the need to social distance. The world had been united in the fight against this dreadful disease, but sadly the events in Minnesota have threatened to divide people again.

I can’t be any clearer when I say that racism will never be accepted in our school and the wider society. Many of us have been victims of racism or discrimination in the past, sometimes explicitly and other times where is it hidden and more discreet. Bingley Grammar School has worked tirelessly to be an inclusive establishment whilst celebrating the diversity and rich cultures that make our school so special.

When I started teaching the world was not as it is today. Society was still recovering from the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, and suspicious eyes were cast on people from Asian backgrounds in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Centre. It was not uncommon back then to be stopped and questioned by police.

Whilst there are challenges that remain today in maintaining a cohesive society, the students and staff at Bingley Grammar School lead the way in demonstrating friendship and belonging. We have all worked hard to ensure our school remains a close family, supporting our vulnerable to grow and succeed with the same opportunities as every other person. I personally have never been treated differently nor been denied an opportunity, which is why I am proud to serve our school and its community. Likewise, it is a privilege to observe the vast majority of you treat each person with dignity and respect, a trait that acts as a strong magnet in bringing us all to this unique school.

Mr Parapia and Mr Bridge

How to be a good citizen

The personal qualities of a good citizen include the following:

- **Honesty** – tell the truth.
- **Integrity** – be morally upright.
- **Responsibility** – be accountable for yourself and your actions.
- **Respectfulness** – treat others how you want to be treated.
- **Compassion** – show fellowship with your compatriots who are down on their luck by volunteering and/or making donations to charities.
- **Kindness** – be friendly.
- **Tolerance** – be tolerant of other races and religions.
- **Courtesy** – be considerate of others.
- **Self-Discipline** – have self-control and cultivate the ability to follow through on what you say you’re going to do.
- **Moral Courage** – stand up for what you consider to be wrong and defend those who cannot defend themselves.
- **Love of Justice** – be fair and ask that others be so as well.