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Dear Parent/Carer

YORK PRIDE - Friday 9 June 2017

Many families will be aware that the annual York Pride celebration takes place next month, with a number of city-wide events leading up to the York Pride Parade on Saturday 10 June. York Pride is a celebration of equality between lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual people. In line with their mission to promote York as a welcoming city, the City Council and the Fairness and Equalities Board are encouraging employers in York to show their support for York Pride by taking part in a 'Raise your Rainbow' day on Friday 9 June (www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0P3eMv2eqk). Employers are encouraged to 'dress' their building in a rainbow and employees are encouraged to dress in rainbow colours, or simply wear a rainbow badge.

At Millthorpe, we will again be dressing the outside and inside of the building in rainbow bunting and rainbow flags and as last year, staff and students are invited to wear a rainbow piece of clothing, accessory or sticker, if they wish to do so. Students must wear full school uniform but can wear an additional piece of rainbow clothing or a rainbow accessory on top of their uniform. In addition, they will have the opportunity to collect a rainbow sticker and/or rainbow face and hand stamp from school to show their support for equality between lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual people. We will also be selling York Pride wristbands for £2 (full price is £5) for students to wear on the day. Our support for the event is an endorsement of our school values, in particular:

- 'We respect all members of school and our community'
- 'We treat all people with equality and seek equal opportunities for all'
- 'We are an inclusive school and are tolerant of different views and cultures'
- 'We value difference and are open-minded about other ways of being and living'

The 'Raise your Rainbow' day and the importance of Pride Month will be explained to all students in assemblies next week. The assemblies will also highlight this year's theme of 'Hold Hands with Pride' which intends to shed light on the difficulty LGBT individuals face when deciding whether they feel comfortable enough to hold their partner's hand in public.

In order to deepen students' awareness and understanding of the issues addressed through York Pride, the RE department will once again deliver an age-appropriate lesson to Year 7 students on inequalities caused by homophobia. Year 8 have already received a lesson entitled 'Being Transgender' which looked at the life of a young transgender person (taken from the CBBC show 'My Life' www.youtube.com/watch?v=0x_u2cs8Dpl)

This lesson explores difficulties that young transgender people may face and ways in which the school and wider community can support young transgender people.

Issues surrounding homophobia and transphobia are already a part of the RE and PSHE curriculum at both Key Stage 3 and 4 and we will draw students' attention to this to ensure they have a clear understanding of why the City Council and Fairness and Equalities Board are promoting York Pride and why Millthorpe is taking part.

As a Stonewall Champion School, Millthorpe was recently invited to share best practice with all secondary schools in York. You may wish to watch the presentation (www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmPqymLt5BY) which was used to show other schools how we have developed our culture of tolerance, understanding and respect towards the LGBT community through celebrating York Pride.

York Pride Parade - Saturday 10 June 2017

This year, Millthorpe will be one of a number of schools taking part in the York Pride Parade on Saturday 10 June in support of the local LGBT community and we would like to invite students and their families to join us. The parade will start from the Minster at 11:00am and finish on the Knavesmire at about 1pm. The route will take us through the city centre and then to the Knavesmire via Skeldergate and Bishopthorpe Road. The main York Pride event then runs from 1:00pm to about 6:30pm at the Knavesmire, with stalls, live music, food, drinks and other family-friendly activities.

For your reference there are some useful links below.

www.millthorpeschool.co.uk/millthorpe/community/lgbt-at-millthorpe

www.stonewall.org.uk/help-advice/glossary-terms

yorkpride.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr T Burton
Headteacher