



## **Meeting of The Thomas Alleyne Academy Diversity Working Group**

***Date: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024***

***In attendance: Matt Cox, Kelly Burke, Ewelina O'Donnell, Sam Makinde***

### ***Agenda:***

- I. Cultural Day – Update from MCX about current plans, plus discuss ideas for next steps
- II. Ramadan information – How will we support students in school. Communications around Ramadan for families, staff and students
- III. Equalities Award update
- IV. LGBTQ Training discussion
- V. AOB

### **Minutes**

MCX updated group on progress with Cultural Day. Proposed date for 2<sup>nd</sup> July. MCX explained day will consist of 3 parts; A Year 7 form project about cultures in their form groups, an afternoon food and music event, with local groups invited in to support, advertise and meet with our students, and a cultural dress element to the school day.

EOD said Polish group will be able to support, MCX has spoken to Faiza about supporting too, will also ask Zara Richards if she is able to support. Discussed possibility of asking local restaurants to contribute, as well as other local groups.

Key point highlighted that staff involvement and enthusiasm is important, as is engaging with students early. MCX will speak to various students to assemble a student committee, and staff in the group are keen to support with this where possible.

MCX proposed promo video idea to encourage students to get involved – various staff to record themselves talking about how excited they are to share their culture and give specific examples. Hopefully will break down barriers of awkwardness or feeling of “difference” in expressing own cultures.

KBE highlighted a couple of students with particular interests and skills that we could incorporate in the day.

MCX to put together a checklist of key steps for a successful event and circulate to group to contribute.

KBE and EOD also highlighted allergens awareness in food prepared by families – MCX assured this has been discussed with SLT and we have a clear process for this.

Ramadan – MCX outlined the school's plans for Ramadan – prayer rooms, info sent home to parents, info communicated to PE and H&C departments too. KBE suggested further information for all staff. KBE asked if we know when it is a student's first time fasting. MCX unsure and will check if this information is collected from Ramadan surveys.

Equalities Award update – Some difficulties finding examples for disabled and LGBTQ representation in curriculum. KBE suggested creating a folder on Google Drive to put all examples into one easy access place. MCX will look at creating this.

LGBTQ training discussion – Difficulty in finding a provider, little response to initial enquiries. MCX will speak to JTS about this and see if she has any further contacts.

No AOB.