



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

2 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

You may be aware from the national news coverage over the half term break of a number of student led protests have taken place in schools across the country. From the coverage it is clear that there have been a number of reasons cited as being the cause of this, but it has also been discussed that viral posts on social media platforms such as TikTok, have led to young people encouraging each other to take the step to protest in schools.

We know living in a digital world means that students who regularly access social media, may have seen posts discussing protests in schools, they may have even seen posts encouraging protest. We do know that there has been some discussion online between small groups of students who attend Emmanuel College, about protesting, and so this week we have been talking about this to students. During Good Morning Emmanuel this week we have spoken to all students about the rights we have as citizens of the United Kingdom, the British Values that we hold which support the right to be able to express views and opinions, and that protests are an important part of our vibrant and tolerant democracy. However, we have also been discussing at what point protest is just, and how we also have in society ways of discussing and expressing views before reaching a decision to protest.

In College, students have a voice and are able to express their views or raise a concern in a number of ways. The first person to speak to is their tutor or Head of Year who will be able to listen, advise and if necessary take their concern to another member of staff. Each House also has a committee with representatives from each year group; students are able to speak to a member of a House Committee who will add the concern to the agenda of their next meeting. Any matters raised here will then be brought to the Senior Students Council with the Principal and Vice Principals. We have already implemented a number of changes in College following discussions in these meetings, such as working with the bus companies to bring the buses on to site earlier, and creating single cubicle toilets in almost all areas of College. Students can ask to speak to a member of the Senior Students Council directly (Head Boy and Girl, Heads of House and their deputies, identifiable by their different uniform) who will bring these views to the Senior Student Council Meetings. They can of course speak to parents and carers about this who can then raise this with College either informally by contacting the Head of Year or formally through the complaints policy.

We trust that students will respond maturely and demonstrate a moral responsibility if faced with encouragement to protest, and that if they have a genuine concern to raise this in the ways outlined above. Any form of disruption to the College day, disorderly or defiant conduct is not acceptable, and if through protest this conduct was demonstrated this would be dealt with in line with the behaviour policy. We would ask that parents and carers speak to their children about this in the coming days to further support positive discussion regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Hooker
Vice Principal