

20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a brilliant term thus far – with many positives and I wanted to extend my thanks as principal to all our parents, families, staff, and students for really supporting the school to get back to relative normality since we returned in September. As a school community we truly strive to learn together, grow together, and empower each other to make a positive difference within the world we live.

Ofsted recently published a review into sexual harassment in schools and found nine in ten of the girls whom they spoke to told them that sexist behaviour was happening in their school community. Ofsted's message to schools was clear: that schools should "act on the assumption that sexual harassment is affecting their pupils".

This is a challenging message for all of us who are responsible for raising children – both teachers and parents. We do not want to imagine that our young people are either perpetrating these behaviours, or on the receiving end of them. Yet we have a responsibility to face up to the reality that many of them are.

As a school, we take this responsibility seriously. We accept all of the recommendations in Ofsted's review and will work hard to implement them. If you would like to read the review and recommendations yourself, then you can find the report [here](#).

We will be inviting views from all of our students about how we can best create a culture where all children feel safe and respected, and where **there is no place for any form of discriminatory behaviour**. Our aim moving into the new year is to create a student body who can work with the school leadership team to develop an approach together and be a true voice of our growing student community.

In advance of this, over the half term holiday please could I encourage you to talk to your child about this issue. Ofsted found evidence that sexism (and other forms of discriminatory behaviour) is so normalised in our children's culture that most simply accept it, and don't feel it is worth reporting. **We all have a part to play in challenging this culture.**

Our children are the future, and it is our collective responsibility to help them shape a society where our differences are tolerated and celebrated. A conversation with their parents may help your child feel more confident discussing their feelings when the time comes in school.

If your child is interested in joining a student body (i.e., a new student council) to work with us on all aspects of our school community please ask them to email a brief letter, expressing their interest to [studentvoice@astreaernulf.org](mailto:studentvoice@astreaernulf.org). I will endeavour to keep you all updated on this exciting development next term.

We wish you all a restful half-term break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Bissoo', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr A Bissoo  
Principal  
Astrea Ernulf Academy

