

Voltaire Society supports Black Lives Matter

Reconvening for the first time following the school's reopening, the Voltaire Society looked at the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. Our invited guest, Madina Sharpe, Vice-President of the island's Afro-Caribbean network, was joined by Ballakermeen teachers Mr Davies, Miss Farooq and Mr Lewis. In a wide-ranging discussion, topics covered included the language of race, the impact of cultural stereotyping, the place of black history in the school curriculum and the recent protest march in Douglas.

Each of the speakers shared personal testimony in what was a powerful and frequently moving session. All agreed this is an issue the Voltaire Society will revisit at the start of the new school year.

Selected student quotes:

Benn Cellamare: *"It was incredibly valuable to hear the stories of people from different backgrounds. This is something that must continue so that we understand how people affected by issues of discrimination feel."*

Ishi Santos: *"It was extremely informative and eye-opening. Although it is a sensitive subject, our guests spoke very well and gave us a new perspective on the movement. They encouraged discussion and understanding, which is so important in these polarised times."*

Josh Williams: *"It was truly enlightening to hear the stories of our excellent guest speakers. The Black Lives Matter movement is extremely important and relevant. I hope the Voltaire Society will continue to provide a welcoming and inclusive platform for the honest conversations that need to be had."*

