

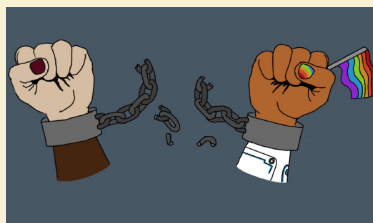
# Diversity Week



Acceptance  
Belonging  
Inclusion  
Diversity  
Equity

## Celebrating Diversity

As you may have seen from recent photos and communications, The Gregg School celebrated ABIDE week just before half-term. As part of the Respect Programme, the school has been working on the ABIDE theme for this year with lots of projects and competitions.



We ran a Diversity Art competition in Year 9, a Boomerang of Kindness in Drama for Year 7 and some special enrichment events such as a toxic masculinity workshop and a talk about university students who are treated differently because of their disabilities.



## Why focus on diversity & inclusion?

Work on diversity and inclusion in schools improves academic performance. When students feel included and valued, they are more likely to engage in their learning and perform better academically. Education on these issues also engages deeper thinking and encourages qualities such as greater understanding of others, tolerance, empathy and a clear guide as to right from wrong - a key grounding for our future citizens of society.

## ABIDE Week

ABIDE week started with a great artistic flair thanks to the Year 9 Diversity ART competition. A special art wall has been made for the school, displaying some amazing pieces to spread the message of ABIDE. The winners will also have their artwork posted on the school bulletin as a theme for the week.



Continuing the ABIDE momentum for the week, Helena Boyce from [YOUbuntu.com](http://YOUbuntu.com) visited the school and



provided some amazing workshops on how to be anti-racist. She was an impactful speaker who genuinely engaged with the students; her honesty and passion was very empowering.

At the end of the sessions, each student made a pledge about how they would act differently if they were confronted with, or overheard, an unkind comment. We hope to see Helena again next year.



On the Wednesday of ABIDE week, the school celebrated Cultural Diversity Day. Students came to school wearing a costume, badge or item of clothing that represented their culture or something that gave them a sense of belonging.



We also ran a cultural cake-and-bake sale: snacks from all over the world were on offer - such as samosas, prawn dumplings, Maltese pastries, Spanish baked cheesecake and tasty scones. There was a great buzz in the canteen with students tasting new foods and experiencing and appreciating the cultures of others. It was wonderful to see the students come together in this way. The money raised on the day totalled £569 and the proceeds went to Naomi House and the Southampton School Trust.



ABIDE activities from Year 7 to Year 9 were in earnest all week and you can find what each subject offered on this Firefly link. <https://gregg.fireflycloud.net/respect-1/abide-week-2024-celebrations> There are lots of photos and examples of some lovely work.



## *Taking a different perspective*

The ABIDE week created an atmosphere of excitement and activity. Students experienced lessons taught from a different perspective, and took time to appreciate others' perspectives.

The students enjoyed the extra elements that were on offer during the week, but what was most rewarding was that **engaging in this week focused on diversity and inclusion brought the school community together** and encouraged a great sense of unity.

Thank you to everyone for your support and hard work in making the week a really worthwhile experience.

Mrs Clifton

