



## **Diversity, Equality and Inclusion** **Working with our local primary schools.**

The St. Lawrence Academy is a hugely diverse academy with over 39 different languages spoken and students from a wide variety of faith and cultural traditions. It is something we are very proud to celebrate both with the academy community but also with our local primary and secondary schools that may not experience such diversity.

We work closely with a number of our local primary schools. Our Religious Education and Collective Worship leaders build wonderful relationships with the younger children when they help with both their Religious Education lessons and supporting their school assemblies / collective worship. Our students plan and deliver lessons on Islam or other world faiths enabling the younger pupils to meet children from a different faith or cultural background to themselves. The sessions are fun and creative, exploring topics such as festivals, clothing, places of worship and food. The younger pupils have the opportunity to get to know the older students and to ask them questions in a relaxed and friendly environment. As well as individual lessons our Collective Worship leaders will also lead whole school assemblies.

The Muslim RE leaders have also supported the teaching of Islam in one of our local secondary schools with a visit to introduce themselves so some of the students and lead workshops on some of the important elements of Islam.

We have also held an Incredible India Day here at the academy for visiting primary schools. Our students created a market place with stalls of information about Indian Culture and Religion. The primary school pupils visited the various stands to find out different facts about Indian Culture and Religion and they took part in a variety of craft and practical activities including enacting a Hindu Wedding and a drama workshop on Rama and Sita.

One primary school refers to our students as their friends from St. Lawrence Academy and there is great delight when they meet each other again on subsequent visits. One of the Headteachers commented that our students were well-prepared, polite, outgoing and informative and that they really could not have hoped for any more and the visit will be of real benefit to their children. On the back of our visit to their school they are now organising a visit to Scunthorpe Mosque to continue the learning.

The benefits of this program are immense. The primary school children are able to meet and get to know young people from other cultures and faiths, to experience something of their lives and to ask questions in a friendly and informal way. For our students there is great pride in being able to share their culture and beliefs with others. They learn from each other as they plan lessons or activities. They grow in confidence as they talk to other children from different schools or have to stand up in front of them and deliver an assembly to the whole school. Some of the skills they develop are communication, teamwork, planning and preparation, and it helps them to celebrate and share our diversity with others in a positive and enhancing way.

