

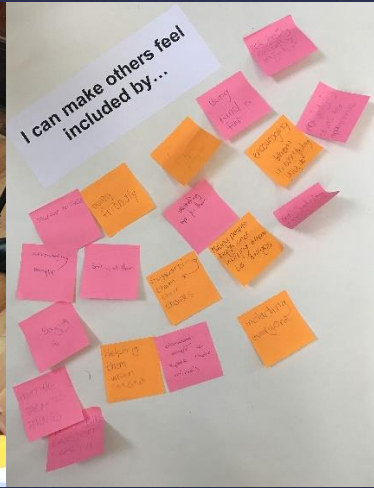


Did your daughter tell you?



Term 1 2020

As part of the Grade 8 Orientation programme, every Grade 8 student attended a 90-minute workshop to introduce them to Rustenburg's A School Where We All Belong programme. They discussed topics such as the stereotypes surrounding the "ideal" Rustybug, and how these could include and exclude people. They also workshopped what inclusive behaviours they could model at school to make everyone feel they belong at Rustenburg. They engaged with the idea of privilege, and took a "privilege test". They also learnt about Rustenburg's transformation journey over the past few years. Finally, they were introduced to the school's four values: respect, integrity, acceptance and kindness. This workshop laid the groundwork for the Dialogue Day in Term 1, and the sessions that accompanied it.



On 11 February Rustenburg hosted Lovelyn Nwadeyi, who is the Founder and Director of L&N Advisors, a consulting practice which wants to see social justice normalised and embedded in businesses, academic and religious spaces.

Ms Nwadeyi gave a presentation to staff, students and parents on racial literacy. This included unpacking definitions of prejudice, discrimination and racism; the South African context in terms of race; seeing different types of oppression as existing on a continuum; and providing a lens through which we can ask ourselves how race has shaped our lives. The presentation was an eye-opening and enlightening introduction to the complexities of understanding race and racism in South Africa.

This term's Dialogue Day assembly on 20 February followed a different format from the previous ones, as it was led entirely by three Matric students. They drew on knowledge from their History curriculum and taught the school about the history of racism, eugenics, institutionalised racism and prejudice. Some volunteers were asked to share their encounters with racial discrimination, and one of the Matric students shared her experiences and challenges in this regard. Many students came away from the assembly having learnt a lot about racism, and feeling moved by the content and their peers' stories.



On 24 February the first Dialogue Day of 2020 was held. The focus this term was on racism and prejudice. The students reflected on the previous week's assembly, discussed the idea of racism as a social construct and reflected on why it is still relevant to talk about race today in South Africa. They were shown a thought-provoking video (link [here](#)) about how prejudice can shape our thinking and our lives from a young age. Finally, they were given an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the different ways that race has shaped their lives.



On the afternoon of Friday 28 February, the Debating Society hosted a platform for discussion on race. The discussion was attended by students from many high schools including SACS, Rondebosch, Westerford, Camps Bay, Springfield and Islamia, among others. The conversations ranged freely within the boundaries of race, racism, discrimination and privilege, and the attendees treated each other with maturity and respect, despite the difficult and complex nature of the topic.

Rustenburg is offering conversational isiXhosa as a subject this year. It is available to Grade 8s and is being taught by our Campus Manager, Mr Mhlanga Nombewu.



In the follow-up session which happened the week after the Dialogue Day workshop, form classes got together to continue their discussions on race. The format of this session was less structured, and encouraged open conversations. The session began with a video depicting members of staff and students telling their stories of how race shaped their lives, and their families' lives. The students were then invited to respond to the video, and to share their own stories if they felt comfortable. The session concluded with a focus on the future, and how we move forward on the issue of racism.

Rustenburg has been working on a new vision, mission and strategic objectives to welcome in the new decade. Members of the SGB, the transformation team, the RCL and the greater management team have been workshopping these in interactive sessions. All of these important decisions are to be seen through the lens of transformation at Rustenburg, and the goal of making Rustenburg an inclusive school where everyone feels they belong.

