

International Women's Day 2024

Friday 8 March was International Women's Day (IWD.) This year's theme is *Inspire Inclusion*. The whole idea centres around ensuring that women feel included, recognised and valued in today's society, and are empowered to express themselves. Women deserve to feel as they belong no matter the situation and no matter the walk of life they come from.



On 7 March after school, Sixth Form students enjoyed a screening of *Barbie* in the Hi-Pod. What better way to kick off International Women's Day, than to watch one of the most female empowering movies ever!

Throughout the week, the Head Girl Team delivered three assemblies (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) about what *Inspire Inclusion* truly means, and why it's so important that we not only recognise inspirational celebrity women, but also celebrate the ordinary women in our lives who do extraordinary things.

The Big Discussion, on the morning of IWD, led by Mrs Tiernan-Powell, was so informative yet empowering. The whole idea was to get us discussing the importance of IWD and what it means to us, focusing on just how vital it is that we uplift other women. We were presented with statistics, indicating the truth behind women's equality in society today; some being quite surprising. This, therefore, highlighted to us the importance that we, as the younger generation, have the power to make change and ultimately forge a better society, so that women can obtain the recognition they deserve! Overall, the discussion was engaging and there was much enthusiasm amongst Sixth Form students, where we all got to discuss an initiative that matters!

During the day, Key Stage 3 were given the chance to do a scavenger hunt; searching for the teachers who wore badges with their extraordinary woman on. This was not only educational but allowed the Highsted community (students and teachers together) to celebrate the women who are special.

At lunchtime, the Head Girl Team had a stand in the hall, selling purple ribbons (that we had made,) feminist stickers and sweets. Purple symbolises justice and loyalty, so everybody was encouraged to buy and wear a purple ribbon to celebrate the incredible women in their lives. Alongside this, we handed out appreciation cards, where the students and teachers were able to nominate an ordinary woman in their lives who is extraordinary to them. Over 90 appreciation cards and 30 pledges were made towards IWD and celebrating the wonderful women in our own lives! The money we raised is being donated to Sateda, a charity in our local community which empowers women to find the strength to escape and heal from domestic abuse.





Overall, International Women's Day was so empowering and the central idea of belonging, from this year's theme, *Inspire Inclusion*, was certainly felt amongst the Highsted community.