



*Learning about gender equality is important for the future of our world.*

## WHAT DOES ST BEES #CHOOSETOCHALLENGE?

*The theme of this year's International Women's Day was #ChooseToChallenge, and in true St Bees style, our students and teachers have risen to the challenge of learning about gender equality, stereotyping and more with open minds.*

Our students are always encouraged to be forward thinking and open-minded in their views of the world, which is why we incorporate national and international awareness days into our lessons.

On Monday, we celebrated International Women's Day - a day which recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women from all around the world. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality as, sadly, there are still instances where gender determines how a person is treated.

The theme this year has been #ChooseToChallenge, which encourages people to think about what issues they would like to challenge to make the world a fairer, better place.

Our incredible Head of Maths, Mrs Hall, has been a massive advocate for gender equality, even during her teenage years where she wanted to become the first female paratrooper, before going on to study engineering - a very 'male-dominated' subject.

Mrs Hall didn't let this deter her - in fact, she became the first female student ever to receive the most outstanding engineering student at her college! The world needs more Mrs Hall's, and we hope that her story has inspired our students to challenge such stereotypes in order to succeed.

Miss Cole also introduced the concept of #ChooseToChallenge in her Personal Development lessons with Year 7, 8 and 9. Students were asked to think about issues close to their hearts that they would like to challenge or change. They then thought about how they could challenge these and the impact that it could have on the future of the world.

In Economics, Year 12 joined an online event hosted by United World Schools with Mrs McCallig which focused on 'Women Driving Social Change'. From businesswomen to young female student leaders, the event celebrated visionary women and the impact they are having on young girls in remote regions of Nepal, Cambodia, and Myanmar through education.

The Economics students then delved deeper into the subject of standards of education around the world, and how the quality of life and schooling can affect the economy - including how gender is perceived in different countries.

Understanding the impact these social issues have on the world is very important, and as our students develop their global mindsets, we encourage them to research and come up with their own solutions to combatting them.

We hope that this week has highlighted that there is much more to be done around the world to make it a safer, more successful place for everyone.