Judgement

A speech by Year 12 Student Abby Williams at the recent Secondary School Assembly

Good morning, my name is Abby, and today I will be talking to you about the importance of not judging others.

Put your hand up if you’ve ever judged someone? It could have been the money they have in the bank, or even as minor as the colour of their socks.

-Come on everyone has-

I’ll admit I’ve judged someone before.

We are all guilty of it, guilty of often being too judgmental at times.

Next time you go to judge someone though, you should think to yourself, you don’t know someone until you know their story.

All our lives we have been surrounded by judgment, with the media influencing us, as to what we perceive people to be. It’s created stereotypes of individuals and groups.

Because of the media, we are now lead to believe, that a guy with tattoos is a heavy criminal, and a guy with glasses is a nerd. This is however often not the case.

People judge others on appearance, height, shape, weight, language, gender, and race.

And it’s so wrong! We know its wrong, but we still do it.

In fact you know it’s wrong when one of the most influential men in history, Barack Obama, was threatened to be shot. Why? Because he is coloured! It’s really sad to think that something as simple as skin colour almost kept Barack Obama from being president.

Sounds ridiculous doesn’t it?

So ask yourself what is the world coming to?

The next time we think about saying something judgmental about someone, we should probably remind ourselves that no-one gets anywhere by judgment.

Here’s a true story, that’s been around for a few years. It’s about how one woman placed judgment on two people and felt the consequences of doing so. She judged these people based on the common stereotype of them in today’s society. The stereotype was based on the colour of their skin.

Picture this:

A husband and wife were in a casino, they had just won thousands of dollars worth of chips. The wife was going up to her room, to put the bags of chips in a safe spot.

On her way up to the room in the lift, she glanced up and saw two very tall, large built, coloured men step in.

She did not dare to look at them; she just backed herself into the corner, keeping the chips very close to her. She began to sweat, and shake, thinking to herself, that the two men were going to rob her.

A second later, one of the men, said, hit the floor.

The woman did exactly that, her chips flew everywhere, and she laid on the ground shaking violently. However what the man actually meant was to press the floor button in the lift.

A hand reached down to help the woman up. Both men helped pick up all her chips, and guided her to her room, to make sure she was okay. She did not make eye contact the entire time, as she was too embarrassed. She had judged them based on a preconceived idea.

A day later, a bouquet of flowers was sent to her, with an attached card, saying “thanks for the laugh.” What the woman did not know was that the two coloured men in the lift were actually Michael Jordan and the actor, Michael Clarke Duncan.

So think about this;

If we could honestly get to know someone before we placed judgment on them, if we could just be more tolerant, and if we could focus on the positives that people have, instead of the negatives, the world and this school would be a much easier, more enjoyable place to be in.

Remember, “You don’t know someone until you know their story.”