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Dear Parent/Carer

As the Acting Headteacher of Highbury Grove School I wanted to write to formally introduce myself to you. I have spoken with every student in assembly during the last week and told them that our priorities this term are exactly as they were before. We shall do our very best to ensure success for all our students in a stimulating, yet calm, environment. Ambition for All remains central to all that we do.

I have been Deputy Headteacher, Head of school for Key Stage 5, at Highbury Grove since September 2015. I am wholly committed to the future success of the school and I hope I have demonstrated this through my work with the Sixth Form, where I believe we continue to make considerable improvements. It is a privilege now to be leading the whole school and, in the coming months, I shall be putting most emphasis on the things that matter to us all: high achievement of course, but also excellent behaviour and respect for everyone in our community.

We already have much to celebrate this term. Of particular significance was the sixth form visit to Ethiopia where students raised over £7000 in order to help further support three schools and a variety of charitable projects. It was an incredibly important trip and one I was privileged enough to experience. Our students were outstanding ambassadors both personally and for the school and we were inundated with comments about the students' generosity and passion to help people less fortunate than themselves.

Last week we held a very successful Year 11 parents' evening where students and parents were reminded of the need to focus all the more on their revision as their exams loom ever closer. Our Catch-Up sessions are up and running and are increasingly well attended and the Year 11 team are working closely with department heads to ensure that all students are receiving the support that they need whilst also ensuring that quality first teaching is building confidence and competence within students as they prepare for their forthcoming examinations. The application deadline for IC6 was last Friday and we are pleased to note that applications for the Sixth Form are up on last year. Our interview process will begin after half-term and we look forward to supporting and guiding all of our students, regardless of their intended destinations, with their next steps. In order to support students as much as possible with exam preparations, there will once again be a programme of revision classes taking place in school over the half term holiday.

Looking forward we have next week's Year 9 Parents and Options Evening whilst on Wednesday we will be saying Bon Voyage to a number of our Year 10 students who are heading off on our MFL trip to France. The determination to ensure a breadth of curriculum and opportunities to engage with our wider world continue.

Continued ..

My letter to you at the start of this week relayed to you our sadness at the loss of Dave Flower. I have been reminded of the strength of the Highbury Grove community as staff and students have joined together to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of a member of staff who served for 26 years. Students and staff have supported one another in a way that highlights the very special nature of Highbury Grove.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of Highbury Grove School and to reassure you of the commitment and dedication that the staff here have towards ensuring the success of your children. I am so very proud of the way in which staff, students and parents continue to work in partnership, supporting one another and ensuring a focus on a love of learning.

I look forward to seeing you at the parents meeting next Monday at 6.30pm but if you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Aimee Lyall
Acting Headteacher