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Dear Parents/Carers

1. Behaviour Update

Thank you for your support with the ongoing development of our behaviour system. Staff continue to report that they find the system extremely helpful and our observations indicate that standards continue to rise across the school during lesson time. Following our staff meeting at the start of term, we have also seen a sharp rise in the number of achievement points awarded.

There are some areas we need to tighten up so that our system works more smoothly.

a) C3s must be served on the same day, regardless of prior arrangements. This means that we will not make alternative arrangements to accommodate doctor's appointments, collection of younger siblings or other family plans. Students will know they have these commitments and, therefore, have to accept that family members may be inconvenienced if they receive a C3 for disrupting learning. Please do not call or text us asking for your child to re-sit their C3 on another day. From now on, we will not be able to act on these requests. The consequence for missing a C3 is a one-day exclusion which indicates how seriously we take this: missing a C3 is a very serious matter as it undermines the entire system.

b) Although standards of uniform are very good, we have too many students arriving in trainers and non-uniform sports tops and hoodies. This puts staff in the position of having to intervene which takes up a lot of time every day. Please ensure your children come to school wearing the correct uniform. They can wear black v-neck jumpers and we have spare school shoes in the most popular style in all sizes for emergencies.

2. New Staff Appointments

I am pleased to announce that we have made some superb appointments in the last week. As reported in the last newsletter, we have created two new positions replacing the previous Deputy Head posts. Matt Little will be Head of School for KS4 and Leila McTavish will be joining us at Easter as Head of School for KS3. Ms Dhillon has decided to step down as Head of Maths from September and I am delighted to announce that David Shemoun (a very popular teacher who left two years ago) will be returning to take up this position. Ms Dhillon will stay on as a regular maths teacher. Finally, we have appointed an excellent SENCO. Sarah Emberger will take up the post in April.

I am pleased to report that in each of these recruitment processes, we attracted a very strong field of candidates. Highbury Grove is a school that a lot of people want to work in; they are excited by what we are doing and I am delighted that we are able to recruit such good people despite all the talk in the media about a recruitment crisis.

We are looking forward to seeing parents at the Parents' Forum tomorrow.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Sherrington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Sherrington
Headteacher