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11 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

January Updates

I hope you had a lovely relaxing break over the holiday period. We are now back in full swing with students very much focused on learning in classrooms after a very positive start to the term.

Staffing Updates

I would like to inform you that, after a re-organisation process, Mrs Bottomley has left Highbury Grove. She served as Deputy Head for 16 years with total dedication. Mrs Bottomley helped oversee significant changes as Highbury Grove moved into our new building and she was responsible for our primary transition and safeguarding procedures for many years. I am sure you would like to join me in offering our best wishes to her for the future.

We are introducing a new structure with Heads of School overseeing Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. The Heads of School will become key people in the lives of students in Year 7-11, joining Ms Lyall, our existing Head of Sixth Form. They will be experts in curriculum and assessment, helping to ensure that the learning experience of each student is monitored very closely, making sure that every child is challenged and supported appropriately. These posts are currently being advertised with the interviews taking place towards the end of January.

We are currently advertising for a SENCO following Ms McDonnell's departure. If you have any concerns or queries regarding special needs, please contact Ms Singh using usingh@highburygrove.islington.sch.uk

Parents may be aware that Mr Luchman has been away from some time for health reasons. He is due to return later this term. Meanwhile we have put arrangements in place to cover his lessons. Mr Kenny and Mr Allen are joining us this term to support that process as well as taking over Ms Sharif's lessons.

Y11 Parents' Evenings

Year 11 parents should have received emails and postcards highlighting tomorrow's Sixth Form Open Evening from 6pm. The main talk begins at 6.30pm. With mocks out of the way and provisional options blocks sorted, this is a good time for looking ahead to the Sixth Form, having discussions about A level/BTEC choices. We have a full programme of individual interviews over the coming weeks, all of which will be explained during tomorrow's event. We look forward to seeing you then.

The Parents' Evening for discussions with all teaching staff is now on Thursday 28th January. Year 11 reports are currently being finalised and will be issued in advance.

Uniform Issues

I would like to reinforce our expectation that all students should wear proper black school shoes. Students will be asked to change into the shoes we provide if they arrive in trainers. Students are allowed to wear a black v-neck jumper underneath their blazers when it gets cold. Hoodies, cardigans and tracksuit tops are not allowed and may be confiscated if students are wearing them.

Assessment Point 2

All students will receive reports with progress, behaviour and attitude to learning grades later this week, following the latest Assessment Point across all subjects.

Parents' Forum

This term's Forum is on Tuesday 9th February. At this point, the agenda is open. If you have specific issues you would like to discuss, please let me know. We will publicise this again nearer the time.

Best wishes for the rest of the term.

Regards

Tom Sherrington
Headteacher