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22 June 2020

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are all keeping well and staying safe as lock-down starts to ease. It has been lovely to see some children back at school and we are hopeful that we there will be a full return as we move to the 'new normal' in September.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all of our parents who have paid, or who are paying, their fees this term. I would also like to thank so many parents that have contacted the schools with messages of support and gratitude for the continuing education that is being provided. This clearly demonstrates that you recognise the efforts that our teachers and support staff have made to support your children in the best way that we can in these unprecedented circumstances.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to those parents who have donated their 15% discount to the hardship fund. This fund now has almost £20,000 which we are going to use to support those parents who are in genuine financial difficulty. While we are unable to waive fees, we hope that we can provide enough support to enable their children to continue at our schools for the next academic year.

We have taken every opportunity to make savings and take advantage of the Government furlough scheme where possible. Throughout this period, we have not been able to furlough the majority of our teaching staff as they have all been working incredibly hard to provide the ongoing remote education. Staff that we have been able to furlough have resulted in payments from the Government of c£445k up to the end of June. We have also managed to reduce our outgoings by closing sites where possible, freezing recruitment and restricting all non-essential expenditure. We have also provided holiday clubs and wrap around care for the children of Key Workers at no cost to parents.

These actions are expected to generate savings of c£1.190m by the end of this financial year. The 15% discount has cost the Foundation £1.050m. On top of this we still need to provide additional funding for the Hardship fund which has been so generously supported by our parents. All parents who have contacted the Hardship Fund at the Foundation Office have been contacted and arrangements are being put in place to provide support or allow payment over longer period. We will follow our debtor policy for the small number of parents who have withheld their fees for the current term and have not contacted us.



**BABLAKE**  
SENIOR SCHOOL



**BABLAKE**  
JUNIOR & PRE-PREP



**KING HENRY VIII**  
SENIOR SCHOOL



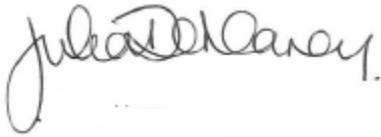
**KING HENRY VIII**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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This brings me on to the subject of fees for next academic year. As you know we promised no increase for September but we reserved the right to increase fees for the Spring or Summer term, something we wanted to avoid because of the uncertainty of the situation. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Headteachers and the Foundation have been working hard on next year's budget and thanks to their efforts we will be able to freeze the fees at current rates for the whole of the 20/21 academic year.

Thank you again to all those of you who have supported us through this very difficult time. We are making every attempt to respond appropriately to an ever-changing situation.

Yours faithfully



Julia McNaney  
Chair of Governors

