

Dear Parents and Carers,

January 2011

I am sorry to tell you that we have applied for a one year deferment on the launch date of our sixth form. This means that we have asked for it to open in September 2012 with our current year 10 as the first prospective students instead of opening September 2011 with the current year 11. The Council recently agreed to this.

We have decided to do this because Government cutbacks in funding school building mean we are uncertain about how we will fund the necessary additional facilities we will need for the students. Without these we will not have sufficient specialist teaching rooms to offer our planned curriculum, nor will we be able to provide the social and study space that is so important in the sixth-form experience.

The school is working closely with Ealing Council to identify funding to enable us to achieve our plans. The Council has been very supportive, and there is a strong consensus that we cannot remain as the only 11-16 school in Ealing. Proposals are being put together to secure a building and funding, and we believe we ought to be back on track ready for a September 2012 start.

We are all disappointed about the postponement. Our staffing and curriculum plans had gone quite a long way, but we feel that we have to know from the outset that our offer to students will be an excellent one and that includes access to facilities as well as to staff.

It is sad that we will not be able to accommodate our current year 11s after age 16, but we believe that by publishing our deferment now it gives everyone a chance to make their plans for the next academic year in good time.

We will be in touch again before the end of the Spring term to let you know the outcome of the funding decision and give you a planning update.

Yours faithfully,

Neville Lassiter
Acting Headteacher