



Sixth Form at Acton High to open in September 2012

I am delighted to announce that the proposed opening of Acton High School's Sixth Form in September 2012 has been approved by the school's Governing Body. This means that the school can now continue the work of planning to deliver an outstanding Sixth Form experience for students from all of our current year groups. This is particularly welcome given the desire often expressed by our students to stay on at Acton High after Year 11, and the desire of staff to continue to support and challenge students with whom they have worked so hard from the beginning of Year 7, using the knowledge and understanding of the students that they have built up over the years.

We will be developing our curriculum in consultation with students and staff, in order to ensure that we have high-quality and appropriate programmes that take account of students' preferences. We will also be supporting students in making informed choices about the programmes of study that will fit best with their abilities, interests and ambitions. This support will be linked to advice and guidance that we will give to KS4 students about how to develop their career opportunities. It will also create foundations for the extensive work that will be done with our Sixth Form students on how to make the most of the opportunities available to them after Sixth Form. There will be a particular focus on enabling each Sixth Form student to access appropriate courses at universities with the best possible provision for that student.

Our facilities will be developed to accommodate the specialist provision required for Sixth Form. We are very excited about the possibilities created through securing the Greer Centre building (previously the City Learning Centre) for sole use of the school. This is now being used for a range of lessons, but from September 2012 will become the key central point for Sixth Form provision, and will include Sixth Form teaching, study, admin and social spaces. We are currently exploring how to extend the Greer Centre to accommodate more of the specialist teaching Sixth Form students will require.

During the academic year 2011-12, there will be a number of events designed to provide information for prospective Sixth Form students and their parents. These will be advertised to students and parents through letters, text messages and the school website. One key event will be the Sixth Form Subject Fair and Information Evening which will take place on **Wednesday December 14th, at 6.30pm**. At this event students and parents will be given information about how the Sixth Form will run, what provision for students is being planned, and what the entry requirements for the various programmes will be. They will also have the opportunity to talk to staff representing the teams that will deliver the Sixth Form courses.

The opening of Acton High School Sixth Form will be the beginning of a new chapter in the story of the school. We are tremendously excited by the possibilities given by the Sixth Form to shape this story in the future, and look forward to working with all of our students as they develop their roles and play their parts.