

Dear Parents/Carers,

12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

I am writing to remind all parents and carers that our Christmas break runs from **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**. Students will be dismissed at **12.30** on the last day of this term, **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

School resumes on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**. To facilitate staff training there will be a late start to the morning. Students need to be on site at **9.40am**, ready to move to registration at 9.50am. Lessons will start with period 2 at 10am.

This has been a very exciting first term for me as Headteacher at Acton High. We have made great strides in setting up our Sixth Form, which will operate from September 2012 onwards, and I am very much looking forward to meeting parents and students at our Sixth Form Open Evening on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**. We have also been intent on spreading best practice relating to assessment and questioning within the school, as we focus on ensuring that students are engaged and challenged to learn well inside and outside the classroom. A great deal of work has also been done to ensure that our outreach programmes are having a positive impact on the wider community: for example, through some inspiring joint activities with local primary schools. Some great work has been done in these and other areas, and I would like to thank the staff involved, as well as the families and other people linked to the school who have made it possible.

We have also dealt this term with the sadness of the passing of our inspirational ex-Headteacher Mandy Golding. It has been a difficult period for many people within the school and the community, but the support for each other shown by Mandy's family, friends and colleagues has sustained us, and will allow us in the future to remember and celebrate her life. The school has already drawn up plans for a garden to be created in her honour, to be called the Mandy Golding Memorial Garden. More information on the progress of this project will be sent to parents in due course.

I hope that you and your children have a very happy and relaxing holiday, and look forward to welcoming the students back on **January 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Andrew Sievewright  
**Headteacher**