

1st November 2011

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Mandy Golding, who was Headteacher of Acton High for four years until her early retirement last year, has died. Mandy was diagnosed with Stage 4 Melanoma in September 2010, but remained an energetic and lively person for some time, even managing to enjoy a holiday in Florida in February 2011. However, in recent weeks her health deteriorated quickly, and, despite a brave fight, she passed away peacefully during the early hours of 31st October in the Arkley Nursing home in North London.

As an inspirational Headteacher, Mandy did an excellent job for the students, parents and staff at Acton High, demonstrating great passion and commitment to the school in everything she did, and developing it as a thriving modern comprehensive. Prior to taking on the job of Headteacher, Mandy was an advisor to the school for several years. Staff have paid tribute to the work she did with them during this period, commenting on how much her knowledge and understanding, as well as her superb communication skills, helped them to develop their expertise in key areas.

Mandy was renowned as a leader, who worked ferociously hard, but never lost her sense of humour or her ability to empathise with, and support, her staff and the students and families of Acton High. She was also a great advocate for the school, always willing to clarify the school's mission and champion its strengths. She will be greatly missed by the whole school community. We are awaiting information from Mandy's family about arrangements for a memorial service, and will inform students and parents about these in due course.

We understand that this will be a difficult time for those students and families within the school community who knew Mandy well. Students who would like to talk through their feelings about her death should inform their tutors, and arrangements will be made for them to speak to an appropriate counsellor. We know how important it is in times like these for all members of the school community to feel that support is available for them, so please do let us know if there is anything that we can do to help you or your child.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Sievewright
Headteacher**