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Dear Parents

A new head for Notting Hill & Ealing High School GDST

I am delighted to let you know that the Trustees of the GDST have appointed Matthew Shoults as the new Head of Notting Hill & Ealing High School (NHEHS).

Mr Shoults is currently Senior Deputy Head (Curriculum) at North London Collegiate School (NLCS), where he is in charge of the day-to-day running of the school. This includes overseeing the strategic development of both the curriculum and the quality of teaching at the school, responsibility for extracurricular provision, and line management of Heads of Department.

His colleagues describe him as someone who is tirelessly ambitious on behalf of the girls in his care, endeavouring always to ensure they are taught to the highest standard, stretched and stimulated, while never losing sight of the fact that they need to be nurtured and treated with care. He is an excellent educationalist who commands the respect of girls and staff, able to connect and communicate with everyone with generosity, empathy, patience and kindness.

Mr Shoults read Classics at Oxford, and then joined the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions on a graduate fast track scheme. After two years, he decided he wanted to teach, and completed his Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at Cambridge.

He started his teaching career as a Classics teacher at King's College School, Wimbledon (where he had been a pupil), and was soon appointed Assistant Head of Sixth Form. He also led Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, was in charge of the cross-country team and helped out with music ensembles.

Mr Shoults then joined NLCS in 2004 as Head of Classics. Under his leadership the department grew, and he established partnerships with local primary and secondary schools. The department also saw unprecedented Oxbridge success, with more girls than ever before gaining places to read Classics. Appointed as Assistant Head of Sixth Form alongside his role as Head of Classics, he supported girls with their university applications, including organising mock examinations and mock interviews.

Mr Shoults has been enormously impressed by NHEHS. He is committed to the ethos of the School and its focus on an academically rich education, breadth of extra-curricular provision, and warm environment which nurtures self-assurance and mutual respect. His experience in two single-sex, intellectually ambitious schools has given him the belief in the importance of nurturing students' individual talents.

Mr Shoults will join NHEHS in January 2017, and I know he is looking forward to meeting the girls, parents and staff over the summer and autumn terms.

A member of the senior leadership team will be appointed Acting Head for the autumn term, working closely with Mr Shoults, the rest of the school's senior leadership team and with the support of the GDST. We will share more information on this in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity to again pay tribute to Lucinda Hunt and to celebrate all she has achieved at NHEHS over the past eight years. Alongside the transformation of the physical environment, Ms Hunt has overseen an equally impressive enhancement of academic standards and care for the girls' wellbeing.

There will be more opportunities to thank Ms Hunt over the next term and to wish her all the very best. In the meantime, it is business as usual at NHEHS, with much to look forward to over the coming months.

My best

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Fraser', written in a cursive style.

Helen Fraser
Chief Executive