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14th September, 2020.

To: Primary School Principals

Dear Colleague,

I trust that this communication finds you safe and well.

It has been tremendous to see pupils back in Ballymena Academy and I am certain that similar emotions will exist within your own school. In particular, it has been great to finally welcome our new Year 8 pupils into our community. It is pleasing to note that they have settled in very quickly and have adapted well to their new surroundings.

You will undoubtedly be aware of recent developments in relation to Transfer 2021 and the change in timing of the AQE Common Entrance Assessments which will now take place on **Saturday, 9th, 16th and 23rd January, 2021**. It has also been decided that an additional 10 minutes will be provided to each candidate in each of the three papers. Further details are provided in the attached letter which has been forwarded by AQE to parents/guardians of children who have entered for the assessments.

The correspondence also indicates that there is no need to re-register children as all existing registrations will be carried forward. However, the registration date has been extended to **Friday, 9th October 2020** to facilitate any parent who may yet wish to enter their child. Further details are available on the AQE website www.aqe.org.uk

We are currently reviewing our processes in terms of how the assessments will be managed, in light of possible social distancing regulations, and will keep you informed of this. Our over-riding priority remains the health and well-being of all those involved. The change in the dates of the AQE Common Entrance Assessments will also necessitate a change in our 'Open Night' arrangements. If it is possible to hold such an event in 2021, it will be re-scheduled to take place in February following the completion of the assessments. I will forward further information in due course.

In the interim, if you or any of your P.7 parents, have queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. As ever, I am indebted to you for your support and assistance.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

S.W. Black (Principal)



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