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8<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

Dear Parents

Tomorrow: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, School is closed for all students.

Thursday is a regular training day for all Grace teachers – with other teachers invited on this occasion.

### **Targets.**

Thanks for your involvement in the Target Evenings. The last one of this ‘round’ is on Wednesday – for Key Stage 3 students. If you have any comments on the way these evenings are organised, do let us know.

### **Field Trips**

It is a pity that we had to cancel the Year 10 trip to Cherrapunji (because of insurmountable problems with visas). However, we have come up with a really interesting alternative, whereby Year 10 are based in Mymensingh. The policy for the future will be to make the secondary school field trips more curriculum-based, rather than just holidays. The current round of trips moves us in this direction.

### **Football Tournament**

This Friday is the annual inter-schools football tournament at the French School. Many schools take part in what is always a happy as well as a fiercely contested competition. Parents are welcome to come and cheer Grace teams on.

### **Baker Books**

The Baker Books catalogues will be issued this coming week. Do please read the selection carefully. There are always many excellent children’s books to choose from – not to mention the fact that school receives 20% extra on whatever order is placed.

### **Buildings**

Thank you again for all the expressions of support we have received from many of you during our buildings crisis. As I explained, we have been assured by more than one very senior official that we will not be troubled by the authorities again before 31<sup>st</sup> July. To make doubly sure, we have obtained a stay order in the high court to the same effect.

We now move into an important phase during which we must aim to confirm the long-term security of our buildings. We need to convince the RAJUK – and its overseer, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works – that Grace is a school deserving special consideration. I shall attach here a document listing all the reasons why I believe this to be the case. (You might think of others!) Our request to

parents is that every one of us in the Grace community uses these arguments as widely and as strongly as we can.

The school Board of Trustees is meeting tomorrow to discuss the best strategy for our campaign. It is likely to involve meetings and other activities. We feel very hopeful that we will secure the permissions we need. However, this is not certain. The truth is that, sooner or later, we might need to find new premises. We do not feel afraid of this. A school such as Grace is about more than buildings. Change can even be enriching – as in the case of our recent shift from Pre-School to Early Years!

If any of you has ideas, advice or suggestions about our current buildings situation, do please e-mail me.

Best wishes

Mike Hawthorne

(Principal)