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Dear families,

I hope you are well. As you may be aware, a video was recently circulated on social media which involved a recorded conversation about gender identity between some students and a member of staff that took place after a lesson. I am writing to you today to provide an update on this situation.

I would first like to reassure you that we have taken this matter very seriously. We have now met with the Department for Education (DfE) to share an update of the events that took place before, during and after the recording. The meeting was a positive step and we will continue working closely with them to ensure any appropriate action is taken.

We strive to uphold the highest standards across the school at all times and aim to be consistently nurturing and supportive of all our students. We remain committed to offering our pupils an inclusive education, in-line with best practice, that prepares our young people for the world we live in, ensuring all in our community are safe and happy during their time at school.

We will continue to support our teachers in their endeavours to ensure students' views are listened to, and encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Our teachers also aim to answer questions sensitively and honestly, and we will be working to ensure that this is put into practice consistently in the future.

More widely, we understand that draft guidance on gender identity in schools is expected to be issued by the Government soon and we would, of course, welcome what we hope will be clear and helpful guidance to support all teachers and schools in addressing gender identity going forward. This will be particularly useful in developing future training to ensure staff feel confident, well-equipped and well-prepared to address these issues.

I would like to invite any parents/carers with concerns over this matter to please reach out so I can reassure you directly that we are fully committed to teaching in line with best practice and ensuring equitable debate across all our classrooms.

As I am sure you will appreciate, we are continuing to support all those involved, and we are committed to working with our staff and students to ensure that we provide the best education possible for the students we serve. To that end, we will be seeking our parents' views on this and other matters in the coming weeks, to ensure that the approach we take in school is tailored to the community and children we serve.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. Downes
Headteacher