From the Principal:

13th February 2013

Mr Moore has passed on your emails to me, now that I am back from leave.

I have not had the opportunity to enquire fully into the matters you have raised so I am not able to comment about the specific points which you make.

However, behaviour of the sort to which you refer is completely contrary to the standards and behaviour required at the School. I would be very disappointed if any student was the victim of such behaviour and therefore I am very ready to apologise on behalf of the School for any such conduct.

Naturally, I was very sorry to read about a number of upsetting experiences to which you refer while you were at the School and, in particular, your reference to a totally inappropriate approach made to you by a member of staff. Such an action cannot ever be justified.

I hope in raising it with the School as you have done and in receiving this response from it, that this will go some way to alleviating the distress to which you refer and will help you to move on from it.

You have also said that you were ostracised and bullied by other students while you were at School. Again, any conduct of that nature is unacceptable and I am very disappointed to hear that you felt that you were targeted because you came from a family that was less affluent than many others at the School. My only comfort is that I believe that such motivation is very unlikely to arise today. However, if it did the School would immediately take action to eliminate it. Students who come from families where the parents have to work very hard to make ends meet, are treated no differently from any other members of the School. I am sure that there are a significant number of students who come from families who are very stretched to manage their proportion of the fees. 25% of all students benefit from a scholarship, or other form of financial assistance, and I have not heard of any of these students being treated poorly by other students. I do understand how destabilising it is to be bullied and ostracised and I understand how hurtful that can be. I am sorry that you felt that way.

I am also sorry that the counsellor whom Mr Apted proposed you should see, did not provide you with the support which you believed you needed.

I am interested in your suggestion that you would like to do Year 12 again as a mature student, but I regret that we are not able to accommodate you in this way. We do not have any mature students at the School and thus I am not able to offer you a place to do a course.

I do hope that this response will help you to put a closure on the events from your school days. I would, though, be willing to meet you to discuss your email, if you felt that would help you more to come to terms with these issues and to move on, which it is clear you wish to do.

With best wishes,

Stephen Meek
Principal