Thank you for your letter of 12th April about BIP's expulsion.

At the time of the events in which BIP was involved we thought very carefully about the issues involved. There were a number of students involved in different episodes and they were involved to varying degrees. We thus had a number of different factors to consider and we wanted to be fair and consistent.

BIP was expelled for engaging in sexual activity. As we know, she was not of an age she could legally consent to such activity but she did choose to participate. When she was interviewed by the Director of Student Welfare, she never suggested that she was so under the influence of alcohol, that she did not know what she was doing or was not in a state to resist or had her inhibitions so relaxed that she did what she would not otherwise have done. There was some alcohol about, but the amount that was consumed between a number of students, of whom she was one, was relatively small. She told others about what she had done the next day and never suggested that she was under the influence of alcohol or that what she had done was against her wishes. Thus we took her to be a willing participant. The legal consideration in reference to capacity to consent is important in relation to the law of the land, but the School must apply the standards which it thinks is applicable. We have many students who are under the age of consent, but that could never be a defence if they engaged in sexual activity of their own volition.

In terms of consistency, I also expelled students who were similarly engaged in sexual activity at that time. In one case, there was a similar age difference as was the case with BIP and one where they were closer in age. Earlier in the year, I had also expelled a boy and a girl for similar activity, although they were again not of an age where they could legally consent. In one of these cases, one of the girls claimed that alcohol had meant that she was not in control of her actions, but that was an exaggeration.

Thus overall, I believe that we investigated the matter appropriately and acted fairly and consistently. In that context, I believe that BIP's expulsion must stand.
I am very pleased to hear that she has settled well into and I hope that she will continue to flourish.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Meek
Principal