

24<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **RE: Letters to Our Daughters**

I am writing to you to give an update on the project *Letter to Our Daughters* which your daughter has been involved in.

#### What is Letters to Our Daughters?

Over the last couple of months, a number of girls in our school, including your daughter, have been taking part in a very special project. It is called Letters to Our Daughters and is a global writing project and competition that aims to empower young women through creative writing. For this project, 23 of our students, 21 from year 9 and 2 from year 7, have been writing lyrical letters to the next generation of girls. The girls had two 100 minute workshops with myself (Miss Graebe, teacher of English) before handing in their first drafts. In these workshops they discussed what it means to be a young woman today, what are some of the challenges they face, and what are their hopes for the future. They also thought about the women who have gone before them, mothers, aunties, big sisters and friends; and those who are coming behind us, future children, little sisters or a younger version of themselves. On top of all this, they made sure to have a laugh: listen to music, eat doughnuts, give out flowers, and chat and share with each other.

Many schools are taking part in this project but only 60 letters can be chosen for publication and only 8 will be chosen to be performed at the **Global Girl Leading conference** in central London in October. Myself and Ms Gordon will be attending this event with 15 girls from Bexhill Academy.

#### What's happening next?

At the end of May, I posted off the first drafts to the competition organisers and luckily, they all arrived safely! The next stage of this exciting project involves a 90 minute workshop with a professional writer. This will be happening in on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July during period 3 and will take place in the library**. During this workshop, the girls will have the chance to re-draft, edit, and improve their original letters before they are sent off for a final time. **The deadline for the final drafts of the letters is the 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

During the workshop, we would also like to give the girls the opportunity to record a message for 'Speakers Corner', a 30 second video clip spreading an inspirational message to other young girls. These videos will be compiled by the project organisers and shown at the **Global Girl Leading conference in October**.

If you would like to start discussing ideas for 'Speakers Corner' with your daughter, then please see the below:

Your school will need to send us a video of your student speaking directly into the camera, using one of these opening lines:

- *o 'I stand by my sisters because...'* or
- *o 'I am part of a Global Sisterhood because...'* or
- *o 'I am an activist because...'* or
- *o 'An activist that inspires me is...'*

Finally, we would like all parents and guardians to join us in school for a coffee evening on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July from 6pm until 6.45pm in the school library**. This will be a chance to see the final letters produced by the girls, discuss the project with myself and Ms Gordon, and to sign consent forms for the 'Speakers Corner' video.

Please can you confirm your attendance at the coffee evening by emailing me at:

[anna.graebe@bexhillacademy.org](mailto:anna.graebe@bexhillacademy.org)

Many thanks,

Anna Graebe