look very nice and put up displays of work and practice the cultural events – the songs and dances and drama. The school will be open between 9am and 3pm so we hope that all families will be able to come for some of that time. The prize-giving will be at 11am and there will be food at 12 pm so we will need a lot of helpers who will practice how to be gracious hosts and hostesses to all our visitors. It is very good education for life to learn how to be someone who can welcome others to your home and see that they have a good time and serve them food. We will be welcoming a lot of visitors – and the important guests who will be presenting the prizes – and it will be good practice for some of you to learn how to do this very nicely.

We are going to lose 3 school days – there is a hartal tomorrow then we have 2 days next week with no lessons. So we are asking you to come to school on Saturday 25th when we will have the time-table for Thursdays because we will have lost two Thursdays. I hope the 25th is not anyone's birthday!

The teachers are looking for examples of best work to put up as part of the classroom displays. Not everyone's work can be put up but I hope that all of you will try to have something up in your best subject. I hope we will all work together to make our Foundation Day Ceremony, a week on Thursday, a happy day when we can prove that we know how to work together to give our visitors a happy time and good experience of our school.

God bless you.

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LEARNING TO BE PART OF A GROUP – AND BEING TRUSTWORTHY

Assembly 10 - January 19th 2003

Last week, I asked you to bring unwanted warm clothes to give to the poor who are suffering from the cold – and some of you brought bags of nice things. Thank you very much. Our Superintendent knew about the leading NGO working with poor people in the country villages in the north-west of Bangladesh where it has the coldest and driest weather in Bangladesh. This NGO is called RDRS – Rangpur Dijnapur Rural Service and it has been working there for over 30 years, since the War of Independence, when it helped refugees. RDRS works to develop the lives of the poorest people, to increase their skills, to develop their confidence, especially of the women. Except for a few advisers and consultants, all the staff are Bangladeshis, although the funding comes from churches in Europe, America and Asia. They have a minibus that goes regularly from Dhaka and our clothes went up there on Friday so they have reached an area of great need very soon after we had the idea that we should organize this collection. We have acted quickly. Well done to everyone!

I am still helping us all to think about the way in which we can learn how to be part of The British School or, indeed, any group, for the rest of your life. We are thinking about what life-skills you need to be part of your family, part of this school, part of any group or team of people – and part of your country and world.

One of the most important skills is to be trustworthy – to behave in a proper way so people do not hold onto their purses every time they see you. If we cannot trust one another in this school, then this is a very serious business. If we have thieves in our midst then all of us feel very unhappy.

On Wednesday, our computer teacher told me something very serious – that one of the speakers was missing. It was a very stupid theft because one speaker is no good to anyone – you need two amplifiers. Also not every speaker works on every machine. But why are these computers here? Who are they for? YOU! You are stealing from each other! The amount of money this school spends on equipment and books is very great and they are all for YOU! So it is very important that you are honest in your use of our books and equipment.

I thought that, maybe, in ordinary Bangladeshi schools, there were students who could not be trusted but I had hoped that TBS was different. I want to ask you to help us to catch any thieves that are among us. Maybe the thief thought it was a bit of a joke – but no one is laughing. It is not funny to steal. Sometimes when people are young and silly, they go through a phase of stealing things in order to feel clever but, with help, they realize it is not clever at all. Let us help them by finding out who they are and helping them to see that what they have done is wrong and ask them to return the amplifier, to say sorry and then we can forgive them – and give them a new start.

Please remember that trust between people is very important. Maybe some of you have discovered already how very sad it is when trust is broken and how it can destroy a relationship. Maybe you had a friend and found that you could not trust him or her and so the friendship came to an end. It is terrible when trust is lost in a marriage. A Bangladeshi man and his wife came to me recently to see if I could help them. Trust had been destroyed and, for the woman, the marriage is dead. The man is very sorry but it is too late. Many people are praying that there will be a resurrection of this marriage but maybe it is not possible. Trust has gone. Please learn, while you are young, to get into the habit of always being trustworthy and to help your friends to see the importance of behaving in this way. It is a very important part of your character. Without it, you will never have good friends or family life. Let us

have a good school, of good people who can be trusted so that we can be proud of our school. People who are part of our school and steal things damage our confidence in our school and their own characters.

God bless you.

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HIGH THINKING AND SIMPLE LIVING

Assembly 11- January 20th 2003

One of the ways in which you show you are part of the The British School is that you wear a uniform. We have tried to make it as comfortable and acceptable as possible and the Senior Girls now have the choice of wearing a shalwar kameez.

But it is very interesting how, in every country, girls and boys try to be different from one another. In the very cold weather, some of you have been wearing some of your warm clothes and not the uniform and I sympathise, especially as the cold weather is not for a long time here, but, in the matter of clothes that are on the border-line between uniform and non-uniform, I am giving the form teachers the authority to tell you what non-uniform clothes are acceptable in special conditions and what are not.

What is not acceptable is what some of our teachers have noticed and we are all uncomfortable about – which is that some of you have been wearing designer clothes and trainers and bringing expensive things to school to make the others look at you with jealousy – *hingsha* – yes? I want to say, this morning, "Stop it! Listen to what happens if this is allowed to develop!"

What has happened in some schools in the UK – and in many schools round the world - has been very bad. So many of the pupils have designer clothes that the pupils who do NOT have designer clothes are mocked by the others. Some parents have schoolchildren