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Dear Griffin families.

Today is our sixth annual Founders Day and a time to unite in a celebration of our roots, our journey and our identity. Despite the current challenges, this well-established Proud Tradition has again given opportunities for:

- The telling and retelling of our GST story
- Griffins everywhere to demonstrate leadership
- Service to our communities and wider society
- Individual and group reflection on who we are.

Every year we grow, adapt and develop and this year we have demonstrated how we are able to use creativity, innovation and imagination to stay connected as a community. The features of a great Founders Day have remained unchanged and I hope you are able to enjoy some time together by sharing in an assembly, taking part in a community event or by fundraising for a local charity together.

I want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to some of the people who do not always get the thanks that they deserve.

Thank you to the young people in our schools for their adaptability, courage and resilience. Their enthusiasm and determination to keep learning every day, despite the challenges, has been remarkable.

Thank you to families for supporting home learning and for working in partnership with schools to celebrate every milestone and every success. We know it isn't easy to juggle the multiple demands, but it is impressive to see what has been achieved during lockdown.

Thank you to our schools; to the support staff, teachers and school leaders who have worked tirelessly to support our communities, when we can't be physically together in school. I know many of you regularly praise our schools, and give useful feedback when needed, and this means a great deal to the professionals who care so much about their roles as educators.

Finally, we are making a fun Founders Day film; a celebratory moment in time for us all. Please do send in your photos, film clips, artwork or vocals, we can't wait to see the creative entries. Or, alternatively wait to see the finished film and enjoy being a part of our family of schools, a community that has never been more important to us all.

Happy Founders Day 2021!

**Anne Powell** 

**Chief Executive Officer**