

Message from the Headteacher

As I approach the end of my first term as Headteacher at Eastbrook I thought I would take this opportunity to share some of the highlights with you, express a few appropriate thankyou's, and outline some of the planned developments for next term

I can honestly say that the response of the students to some heightened expectations that have been put in place, has been fantastic! Not all of the students get things right all of the time, and that is something we will continue to work on in the New Year. However, the overwhelming majority are 'model citizens', who treat the environment, their peers and staff with appropriate respect on a daily basis. I want to sincerely thank all of those students for their efforts to make themselves and the school the best they can be – I genuinely appreciate it.

Secondly, a thank you to all of the parents and carers who have been so supportive to me and the staff this term. When parents and a school work closely together for the benefit of young people it is very powerful. I will be canvassing the views of parents in more detail in the New Year but we continue to get very positive feedback at our events and parents evenings – as evidenced by the Year 9 parent feedback that you can all view on the website.

I must also take this opportunity to sincerely and publicly thank all of the staff at Eastbrook. One of the things that characterises our school is the care and support our staff give to our students each day, alongside the excellent education they provide. It is a school where the staff give everything they can for the benefit of their students and I recognise the effort and stamina this takes. I am sure all parents would join me in thanking the staff for their huge effort and commitment to the students at Eastbrook

Priorities for the New Year

We will continue to focus on the basics of excellent behaviour – as I have mentioned previously, it is a central feature of outstanding schools and that is what we aspire to be. It isn't complicated or difficult; if every student came to school on time every day and was polite and courteous to everyone they met, we would be well on the way to achieving our aim regarding behaviour.

We will also be working very hard to further improve the quality of teaching in the school. Again, this is a feature of the best schools; they never sit back and relax – they continually challenge themselves to get better and better, no matter how good they and others think they are.

In addition, there will be a lot of work going into the school environment to make sure it is as vibrant and interesting as it can be, and that it reflects our school community and the things we believe in. There will also be a focus on the broader curriculum. By this I mean extending the range of opportunities for students outside of the normal school day whether that is booster classes, enrichment sessions or trips and visits. I firmly believe that these are the things that bring learning to life and the things that we all remember as when we look back on our time at school and as such are essential for an outstanding education.

I also intend to more fully involve the students themselves in planning the way forward at Eastbrook. I am aware that it is their school and they should have a say on our priorities and direction. They are usually very good judges of what needs to happen, and I look forward to working with them more closely.

In conclusion, I hope all who are associated with Eastbrook have a peaceful and restful break, and enjoy the time with their families and loved ones. Please read and enjoy this newsletter which is a fabulous celebration of the work that the staff and students do.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a great 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Frith', written in a cursive style.

Mr Frith
Headteacher