

## Eastbrook School – April 2018

As we come to the end of our first year in the new Eastbrook School buildings, after 12 intense years as the Headteacher and very nearly 30 years in teaching, I will be retiring this August. I would like to thank all of the families and students, past and present, who I have had the honour to work with. You have taught me a great deal and I hope that, along the way, I have helped to make your overall experience of school a positive one.

The new headteacher who will take over in September will be able to build upon all of our achievements and take the school forward in the outstanding learning environment that is now in place.

The report from the recent OFSTED inspection has been published and states that Eastbrook School requires improvement. It is my view that all schools require improvement and that we should all seek to get better at what we do, whether that be as teachers, parent/carers or students. I do not agree with much of the content of the report and do not see this report as a fair judgement of our work as teachers and it certainly does not recognise the hard work and the delightful nature of the students at Eastbrook School.

A statement that I firmly believe in is that “Children do not exist to make a school successful. Schools exist to make children successful.” Young people leave Eastbrook School equipped to approach their lives as adults with not just a strong academic record, but also the resilience and understanding to enjoy life, understand others, over-come difficulties and with many happy memories of their time at school.

Our KS4 and KS5 results show that we are at, or above, national averages for all groups of students where there are enough students to make a valid comparison. Our primary school has an exciting and vibrant learning environment, much praised by our families, even though we are only approaching our fifth term of being open. So many strengths of Eastbrook School are not represented fairly and many not even mentioned in the report.

Eastbrook School is a fully inclusive school, and we have welcomed students from literally all over the world, from a wide variety of learning and life experiences and on many occasions where we are the first school that some students have ever enjoyed attending or felt welcome. Students of **all abilities** have the opportunity to make excellent progress and take part in a broad and exciting range of activities. Our students are amazing, they never cease to surprise me and I will definitely miss them.

As I approach my final term at Eastbrook, the Governing Body and the Local Authority are recruiting the new headteacher. I look forward to sharing with them all of the strengths of the school and to being able to speak with you at the various parent / carer evenings and other activities over the next 5 months and to thank you for your support.

**Valerie Dennis - Headteacher**

**Last Day of the Spring Term – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – 3.10pm finish**  
**First Day of the Summer Term – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – 8.40am start**

**We are saying farewell to the following members of staff this term:**

Ms Small is leaving Eastbrook School to extend her career working with students with additional needs.

Aaliyah Burns is leaving to further her career in teaching and music.

Ms Steele begins her maternity leave this month and we all wish her well.

