

July 2022



Eastbrook School

Dear Parents and Carers

It is approaching the end of the academic year and it has been a great year for Eastbrook School. As the first full year after two very disrupted years owing to the pandemic, we have been trying to get back to normal whilst still dealing with some challenges. It has been fantastic to have the young people back on site. I want to thank all the parents and carers who have supported the school; the relationship between school and families is vitally important.

Ofsted

One of the best achievements of the year has been the Ofsted judgement of 'Good'. Our staff, governors and young people have worked incredibly hard over recent years to make the improvements necessary to satisfy the inspectors. The report opens with this paragraph, 'Leaders are determined to continually improve this successful community school. The school is a calm place where all staff are focused on success and aspiration. Leaders ensure that pupils are safe and happy.' The report speaks of 'an embedded culture of high expectations' where 'there is little disruption to learning'. We are incredibly proud of our school and the 'Good' judgement recognises the impressive progress the school has made. Best of all is that our local community is demonstrating its faith in us by sending their children to our school. Our numbers in Year 7 have increased steadily and we are looking forward to welcoming more youngsters than ever as they start their secondary schooling with us in September.

Exams

Our Year 11 students have just finished their GCSE exams. It has been an anxious time for both students and teachers as these were the first exams to take place since 2019 as a result of the pandemic. However, the students managed the process extremely well and we hope to see record results allowing them to continue in the education courses or apprenticeships of their choice.

Sixth form

We are very excited to re-launch our sixth form in September after a break of two years. We have an offer of A levels and vocational courses designed around what our young people have requested. We currently have around 100 applications and hope to see as many of our Year 11 students as possible returning in the new academic year. Information regarding the sixth form can be obtained from Mr Hickman.

Staff changes

At this time of the year, we say goodbye to staff and welcome new members to the team in September. Despite many of the stories of a teacher recruitment crisis, I am pleased to report that we are fully staffed for the new academic year.

It is always sad to see valued colleagues move on, most of whom have served the school for many years. We thank all of them for the dedication and hard work. Our longest serving member of staff, Mr Anderson from the English and media department, leaves us after 27 years. Mr Tobias on the senior team is also moving to a new post.

Mr Frith, the secondary headteacher, is leaving us after twelve years. He has guided the school through some tough times and has been instrumental in the positive improvements that lead to the recent 'Good' judgement from Ofsted. He has been a constant support to the staff and students; he cares deeply about the well-being of our young people always ensuring their best interests are at the heart of everything the school does. He has been a fantastic role model and is an example of how the PROUD values our school upholds can be lived every day. We wish him well for the future and thank him for everything he has done for the school, its students and the community.

In September, the school will welcome the new headteacher, Ms Avani Higgins. She is currently a headteacher in Waltham Forest. She will be headteacher of the whole school supported by Mr Evan Hollows as head of the primary phase.

The new term begins with a staggered return for students:

Monday 5th September

Year 7 – Arrive – 8:30 East Foyer / Dismissed 3:10

Year 12 – Arrive – 11:30 Sixth Form Area / Dismissed 2:30

Tuesday 6th September

Year 7 – Arrive – 8:30 East Foyer / Dismissed 3:10

Year 8 – Arrive at 8:30 / Dismissed 3:15

Year 9 – Arrive at 9:00 / Dismissed 3:15

Year 10 – Arrive at 9:30 / Dismissed 3:20

Year 11 – Arrive at 9:30 / Dismissed 3:20

Year 12 – Arrive – 11:00 Sixth Form Area / Dismissed 3:25

As I too leave Eastbrook after a thoroughly enjoyable year, I hope you have a great summer holiday and wish you all well for the future.

Jill Baker

Executive Headteacher (Interim)