



ESTON PARK SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

Another year nearly done....and what a momentous one it has been for Eston Park.

We have finally resolved the questions raised by the LA over the future of the school and have reached agreement for the school to become an Academy at some stage during 2012 sponsored by the **Academies Enterprise Trust (AET)**.

The AET will be the body responsible for ensuring the future success of the school and, in particular, ensuring the school regains its outstanding status.

Resolution of the school's future has enabled a number of other developments to occur

- A new Governing Body will be created next year to oversee the work of Eston Park School and Gillbrook College
- I am relinquishing my day-to-day responsibilities for Eston Park School and concentrating on strategic matters, including budget, monitoring the work of departmental and pastoral teams and leading on certain critical areas as we move to a new regime. This change in my responsibilities will enable me to reduce the amount of time I commit to Eston Park School so that I can develop other interests and enjoy more leisure time. This is no bad thing after 16 years in charge!
- **Duncan Haig** will assume full responsibility for operational (day-to-day) matters, including all pupil and staff related matters. A message from him is attached.
- A number of staff are retiring completely this Summer - John Douglass, Anne Rutherford, Ron Harrison, Julie Tomlinson and Jan Poole; their contribution to the success of Eston Park School has been exceptional and we all wish them every happiness and success in their retirement. Other colleagues - Liz Lindsay, Judith Sweeting and Howard Bailey are moving to part-time working as they prepare for retirement.
- Other colleagues are moving on to pursue their careers elsewhere; we balance wishing them every success with welcoming a range of excellent new colleagues to Eston Park in September. Everyone can be reassured that the school is fully staffed with highly qualified specialist teachers who will ensure that the needs of all learners are met.

Periods of change can cause anxiety but we have been planning for current developments for 2-3 years now and we are in a period of evolution – not revolution – which will ensure that the school can face the challenge of the next decade with absolute confidence.

Whatever criteria we apply, this has been another fantastic year for the school and its pupils

- We are expecting to beat our targets with our **Year 11** leavers; they finished their time with us in great style with their **Prom** at **Wynyard Hall** and conducted themselves impeccably throughout.
- **Year 10** should set new records for the school in 2012; they have enjoyed a very busy period (including **modular** and **final exams** and a very successful **work experience**) and have now taken over as the senior year.
- **Year 9** are exceptional; they have taken to the early start of options really well and ensured that future years will benefit from the same early move to **Key Stage 4**. They promise much for the future.
- **Years 7 and 8** continue to be a joy; they have bought in to the Eston Park School identity wholeheartedly and are happy and engaging youngsters.
- The **incoming Year 7** have completed all of their induction and we are delighted with the young people who will be joining us. Our initial impressions of them are very positive.
- The **Sixth Form** has completed its third year and all of the data shows a substantial improvement; we are intensely proud of what we have created here and are absolutely committed to ensuring that the Sixth Form will continue to go from strength to strength and engage more and more of our youngsters.

It is impossible to list the whole range of trips, visits and activities which pupils have enjoyed this year. The range is spectacular and I am proud that we can offer our youngsters so many opportunities for enrichment. The Summer edition of the **Eston Park Chronicle** is attached and will give you an excellent overview of the last six months; additionally you can follow us on **Twitter** to keep up to date on a daily basis.

I would like to share with you part of a letter sent to me by a Year 11 leaver. She writes

“I have been lucky enough to have an exceptional education taught to me by a team of professional staff.

Over the past five years, I have not just been a pupil at Eston Park, but part of a huge family. The support and encouragement I have received has been superb! I have achieved so much at Eston Park and will maintain these skills and qualities and carry them into my future. I hope other pupils within the school feel the same.”

Comments like this make the job worthwhile. I am proud of what we have achieved and am proud to continue my commitment over next year.

I wish you all a sunny and peaceful Summer and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

MR J. ROGERS
HEADTEACHER (EXECUTIVE)