

Newsletter from the Governing Body – Summer 2021

Dear parents and carers

We are reaching the end of the school year – and what a year it has been! – and wanted to share with you some of the landmarks for schools and pupils.

This year, of course, has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and you will all be very aware of the challenges that this brought to all aspects of life, including education. The staff stepped up as a body to the task of ensuring that pupils had an experience of education that lived up to EP's ambitions and was as creative, rigorous and inclusive as possible, while keeping everyone – pupils, staff and parents - safe. The courageous leadership shown by Kate and the leadership team, supported by the governing body and the local council (Camden Learning), showed what can be done with vision and determination.

It has been particularly pleasing that the school was able to seize the opportunities to go on trips and residential (five since mid May!) – such a vital part of the EP experience – and welcome back visitors and events towards the end of the term. We hope that this is able to continue with the summer concert, the summer fair and especially the leavers' barbecue – such an important rite of passage for our Year 6 pupils.

In this context, it is very remarkable and pleasing to see the positivity of the responses to the annual parent and carer questionnaire (attached at annex A). We have enclosed with this the governors' analysis so you can see what the school is doing in response to the points highlighted in the survey and in the free-form comments. In general though, the message is that the school staff have again won parents' appreciation for pulling together and offering a real EP education against the odds over this most challenging year.

We say goodbye at the end of this term to the amazing and much-loved Janet, who has been such a huge part of the school and its community for 27 years. She will be sorely missed, but we wish her a very happy and well-earned retirement.

And, of course, another significant element of this year was Kate's announcement of her retirement from headship after 18 highly successful years as head of Eleanor Palmer. The school has been very fortunate to have such a brilliant and generous leader at the helm for this time and we are sure that she will continue to make a significant contribution to education in what comes next and - we hope! – enjoy at least *some* downtime. We are equally fortunate to be welcoming Sally and Natalie – such a huge part of the EP story already – as the next head teachers. They will take EP onto its next exciting and successful stage.

We wish you all a happy summer break and look forward to a new academic year.

Jen Allan and the EPS governing body