

19th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support during this year. We have overseen significant changes at the school and the response of most students has been superb. The hard work of the staff has been recognised in the progress made by the school during its teaching and learning review in June 2018. In March 2018 the review team noted that the strong trajectory of improvement had continued from December 2017 but that the minority of pupils who persistently misbehave undermined learning in some areas. In June 2018 the review team stated that:

the challenging behaviour referred to previously has been significantly reduced, although some low-level disruption to lessons remains. The quality of teaching observed continues to improve and students were keen to point out the strong development noted in the quality of teaching over the course of the past academic year.

You will have noticed that the poor behaviour by a small number of students remains a challenge. We have been resolute in dealing with the worst offenders this year. Regrettably four students have been permanently excluded and a further six attend alternative provision outside of the school. I am hopeful that those few students who have been disruptive will reflect on this year and start afresh in September determined to mend their ways and be part of a high performing school. If not, we will take decisive action to protect many students who are hardworking and totally focused.

Those students who sat their GCSEs this summer merit special mention. Their behaviour was exemplary. They deserve to do well and we are looking forward to seeing them on the 23rd August, results day.

This year has not just been about what goes on in the classroom. The student body has shown its voice with the appointment of the new student council 'EPIC' (Everest Pupils' Inspiration Council) and been involved in deciding on the new skirts, the shaping of the academic year, the rewards system and are currently investigating extracurricular clubs which will be launched in the Autumn Term.

Congratulations to Mariam Cisse and Cameron Mothersole on being appointed as head girl and head boy respectively. They will be ably supported by Seb Jenkins, Ben Andrews as deputy head boys and Jessica Pawson and Ellyannah Brown as deputy head girls. We have also appointed our new student ambassadors. They are Chris Chambers, Emily Plant, Molly Roberts, Sophie Carpenter, Oana Vasile, Zoe Watters, Eniola Osundina, Bethany Needham, Amelia Tilbury, Ayomide Olumade, Chelsea Dell, Lewis Chatten-Smith, Sandip Acharya, Vamu Kane, Owen Wheeler, Luke Allaway-Greenhow and be led by Jazmyne Van Der Walt; congratulations to them.



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The students have been involved in various educational trips and visits this term; 23 students from year 8 have just returned from four days in Germany where they visited Cologne. Many thanks to Mrs Cummins and Mrs Berte for organising it. The year 11 students benefited from curriculum trips to London (History), Woking (Drama) and Basingstoke (English) whilst the year 10s have been involved in the 'widening participation' programme running in all Basingstoke schools at the University of Winchester and The ARK conference centre. Both year groups have been working in local primary schools as part of the modern language leaders programme – the feedback has been superb so congratulations to them.

It has been another successful year for the students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award with students taking part in their expedition in the New Forest where they walked, camped and navigated their way, being totally self-reliant.

Key stage 4 students have benefited from taster days at QMC, Sparsholt and BCOT. Making sure that our students are highly aspirational and ready for the next stage of their education is extremely important and days like these are vital in giving them the experience and information that they need.

The students have really enjoyed the sport and performance provision at school. Our teams have excelled themselves throughout the year showing that commitment and hard work lay the foundation for excellent performances. The year 10 girls' netball squad achieved 2nd place in the Basingstoke Netball League, in athletics 11 Everest students qualified to represent Basingstoke in the Hampshire County Championships. Our year 10 boys' volleyball team came 4th in the Hampshire School Games, whilst our year 10/11 boys badminton squad represented Basingstoke at the County Finals in Portsmouth. Individual achievements saw Jaryd Thomas finishing 3rd in the District year 7 Superstars competition at QMC.

As well as performing the Everest students helped to run and organise sporting events in the community such as some primary bench ball tournaments which were run by our year 10 sports leaders. Year 11 sports leaders ran and organised Winklebury's sports day and Year 9 sports leaders invited primary schools to Everest and ran their sports days. Finally, all students enjoyed the National School Sports week between the 25th and 29th June experiencing exciting activities such as indoor curling, blind football and fencing. On the performing arts side, Mrs Baker and the students have put on three wonderful dance and drama events during the year to showcase their talents. They have all been hugely impressive.

We have also been working hard with our feeder schools to give their pupils a taste of life at Everest. We have held two successful experience days for year 5 pupils during which they enjoyed Mathematics, Modern Languages, Science and PE. We have also welcomed our new year 7 students on induction day and are looking forward to working with them over the next 5 years.

Head teacher: Mr Alex Russell

Telephone: 01256 465547

Oxford Way, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

Email: info@everestcommunityacademy.org

www.everestcommunityacademy.org



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Inevitably some staff are departing the school at the end of the year. Mrs Baker, Head of Performing Arts, is moving to Oxfordshire to be closer to home. She will be a huge loss to the school but I am delighted to welcome Mrs Razzell in her place. Mrs Razzell will be both head of Performing Arts and year 7. Miss Serrurier, Science teacher, is moving back to London and Miss Pepall leaves her job as a teaching assistant to undertake her teacher training course. They will all be missed and we wish them well in the future.

All students return to school on Monday, 3rd September. School starts at 8.30 a.m. and finishes at 2.40 p.m. Please can I ask all parents and carers for your support with uniform and jewellery and remind you that if girls wish to wear a skirt then it must be the new one, no one should wear 'skinny' trousers and no facial piercings are allowed.

It just leaves me to thank you again for your support and wish you a safe and happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Russell
Headteacher