



# DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

Dear Parent/Carer

As another academic year comes to an end we have much to celebrate. It has been another busy summer term with public examinations but also many school events which showcase the hard work and achievements of our pupils.

The year as a whole seems to have flown by. Staff training back in September focused on how teachers can use research methodology to enable improvements in teaching and learning. Various projects then ran through the next two terms and ended with an evening of sharing findings and suggestions for ways to implement these in the classroom. I am keen to emphasise to the whole school the importance of us all being life-long learners, staff and pupils alike. At the start of next term I will share with you how we plan to improve outcomes for pupils further and our main priorities for the year ahead. One of these will focus specifically on student and staff wellbeing, vital if we are to ensure all achieve their potential.

At Prize Giving in the autumn term we were fortunate to be joined by former student Simon Jones who is now a concert promoter. One lucky pupil won Justin Bieber tickets donated by Simon. Other highlights this year include the singing competition for all in Year 7, the Wizard of Oz production in the spring term, and the warm welcome given by our pupils to another group of pupils from China. Unfortunately, we also had endure the scaffolding and costs necessary to improve the Barker Building roof but then we received two excellent pieces of news. The first was that we had secured the funding from the Department for Education to expand our dining facilities, which are half the size normally expected for a school of this size. This expansion will also enable us to complete the final two floors of our newest building at the rear of the School and refurbish our PE/Sports Centre changing facilities. The project has yet to get underway and will no doubt cause some disruption next year but it will be well worth it. The second piece of news was that we were re-designated as a Teaching School which means we will continue to work hard recruiting, training and developing teachers from Darrick Wood and the wider region for many years to come.

Other highlights include our hosting of the Bromley KS3 Art Competition, Jude Neanor from Year 10 winning the Speak Out competition and finally towards the end of the year, our Art Exhibition, Fashion Show, music and gifted and talented showcase which all took place on one warm summer's evening. Other news can be found on our news blog on our website <http://news.darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk/> and on our Twitter account @DarrickWoodSch. We currently have 14 pupils on the trip of a lifetime to Sumatra. We look forward to hearing and sharing news of their travels on their return.

We say goodbye to some staff this year including long serving Assistant Head Teachers Ms McSorley and Mr Larkin who have a combined length of service to the School of 60 years! We will miss them dearly but they deserve a long and happy retirement.

I would like to wish you and your children a very enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing Years 11-13 on their results days. A reminder that the term starts on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September but this is professional development day. Pupils do not attend. On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September only Year 7 and the Sixth Form attend. Years 8-11 return on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey  
Head Teacher