

Dorothy Goodman School

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009



Head's News

We will be having some building work over the summer holidays – for the third year running since we opened the new Area Special School! What we are doing this time is to expand the provision we have at Redmoor to make two classes. We have one 11- 14 year-old class based there at the moment (which we opened in September 2008), and it has been extremely successful, as I knew it would, with Mr. Fray in charge as the class teacher.

Because of its success we are now expanding to two classes, which will mean new build, funded by the Local Authority. These will be our classes, with our

staff, but they will simply be based at Redmoor, and of course Redmoor is right at the back of the Dorothy Goodman School Lower Site. This means that it is easy to keep good contact with the staff and the students who work there, and indeed they do often come back to the Lower Site for various aspects of their work, for example PE, when they join together with other pupils in their age group.

What is important to remember is that we will at the same time be keeping the classes that we have based on the Lower Site for 11-14 year-old pupils. This is important because what we seek to do is to provide each individual child with what they need. So if it is appropriate for them to go to Redmoor then they will do so (after discussion with parents of course); if it is better for them to remain on the main Dorothy Goodman Site, then that also will remain an option.

In this way we will have a range of provisions to meet the needs of all who come to us.

My second point is just to give you early advance warning that Pat Lockwood, our Deputy Head, will be retiring as Deputy at the end of the summer term. She will continue to do some work for us, which we are pleased about, but she will be retiring as Deputy. Pat has done a fantastic job for us, and has, as you know, been the driving force behind making the Upper Site the successful learning environment that it is. I will say more things about Pat in the next newsletter (all good!), but I just wanted to let you know now what will be happening.

As far as a new Deputy is concerned, we will be appointing that person before the end of this term, and so I may even be able to put in a Newsflash item and tell you who it is! We have a very good, strong field

of three candidates, and so we will definitely be making an appointment.

I hope you all have a good Easter holiday. As always, if you want anything over the two weeks, just leave a message on the school ansaphone:

01455 634582

and someone will get back to you.

Tony Smith



School News in Brief

Margaret Yeomans

Margaret, our Secretary at the Upper Site, is retiring at the end of this term. It seems like everyone is retiring at the moment! But I am afraid I am staying!

Margaret has been a wonderful person to have working at the school because of her dedication to the pupils and because of her complete and utter reliability, which is a very treasured quality.

When she started at the school over 20 years ago Margaret worked with the pupils, and for a long time she worked tirelessly with some of the most challenging



children that we then had. She also did some part-time hours in the Office, and when we opened the Area Special School we asked Margaret if she would take over as full-time secretary on the Upper Site. She agreed to do this and has brought everything I knew she would to the post – she is highly efficient, she is 100% committed to the school, and she always makes sure that the job is

done properly. We will miss her, but we are very grateful to her for all her years of first-class work, and we wish her a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

As we have to do, we have appointed a new secretary on the Upper Site. She has started work already, and her name is Lesley – so that is who you will get if you now ring the Upper Site.



Governor News

Full Governor meetings are now arranged for the daytime – they are at 10:00 on Tuesdays once a term. This has been done to try and make it easier for all to attend, and it has been successful. So if you know anyone in the local community who has an interest in possibly joining us on the Governing Body at some time in the future, please get them to contact me for an informal chat.