



Head's Page

I have taken many moments to reflect on the future of Dorothy Goodman School over this past term – for a variety of reasons. (And before I go any further and worry anyone – I always come up with a very positive answer!). A number of things have given me cause to think.

Firstly we have now opened the new Dorothy Goodman base at Redmoor High School, and thanks to the hard work of Mr. Fray and his team it is proving hugely successful. It is not the right way forward for all of our pupils, but where it is appropriate then it is satisfying that we can now offer this as an option for parents to think about.

Secondly I received a letter earlier this term from the local Hinckley Museum with a little potted history of Dorothy Goodman herself. She of course did not see the opening of our wonderful new school, but without her work and her commitment we would never have got this far. Developments do take place and progress does occur, but only because good people work hard to make sure that the right things happen.

And finally – our Assistant Head, Jill Elliott, is of course due to retire at the end of this term. I do not wish to embarrass Jill, but the truth has to be told! And she is simply one of the best teachers I have ever worked with or indeed met. What makes her so special (apart from the huge range of knowledge and skills that she has), is her enormous commitment to each and every one of her children and her staff team, and this really has been quite remarkable over the years. It has been a privilege to have her on the staff team for so long, and we have all learned so much from her.

Over time I got used to a familiar pattern with her – she would first of all tell me about a difficulty that she had come across, then she would say to me “what if I tried this?”, then she would try something different, and finally she would solve whatever it was she was trying to do. I am convinced that she will come and see me at 5 o'clock on her last day and say to me “I have been thinking about such and such – what about if we”! Such is the level of her professionalism and her dedication.

We will not replace Jill easily, and nor should we expect to. She is a unique person in the same way that Dorothy Goodman herself was, and her contribution to the school has been so great. What we have been able to do is to appoint a new teacher – Mr. Furborough – who will bring new qualities to the school, and who – I believe – will be able to help us take the school on to the next phase of our work.

To Jill we say thank you – thank you for showing us and teaching us what work in a Special School is all about. And we wish her the very best for a long and healthy retirement. Needless to say Jill will always be welcome at Dorothy Goodman & will always be a part of us.

Please remember – if you have any problems over the holiday just give us a ring on the school phone: **01455 634582** or
E-mail: info@dorothygoodman.leics.sch.uk

And someone will get back to you over the holiday.

Tony Smith



News in Brief

New Rooms

The Lower Site has opened two new rooms for use by pupils with Autism. We had to use the staffroom to do this (but fortunately we moved the staff elsewhere!)

At the Upper Site we have also created an additional individual work room.

Governor News

Roger Miller has resigned from the Governing Body this term because of his other commitments. We have not had time to replace him yet, so if anyone knows of someone who may be interested in joining us please let me know.

Office Team

When you ring the Lower Site you may get hold of a new lady who we have just appointed to the team (Michelle). So it may be worth just reminding you of all the people who are likely to answer the phone to you, as follows:

Lower – Sheila, Maxine, Caroline, Anne, Michelle

Upper – Margaret

Donations

We have continued to have a lot of donations this term and we are very grateful. People are very kind and it helps us enormously because otherwise we could not buy many of the things that we need. Donations received this term have gone towards a sun shelter at the Lower Site, alterations to the garden and outdoor areas at the Upper Site, and a proposed new play area at the Lower Site.