



Sanders School

Suttons Lane • Hornchurch • Essex • RM12 6RT
Telephone: 01708 443068
www.sandersschool.org.uk • enquiries@sandersschool.org.uk

April 11, 2018

Dear Family and Friends of Sanders School

Much has happened in the life of Sanders School since I wrote in December to explain the role of the newly-established Interim Executive Board (IEB). Over the past months, we have worked closely with the school's leadership team, strongly led by Mr Hooper, also with the local authority and the Success for All Educational Trust (SFAET). SFAET is a compact and mutually supportive group of Havering schools, which Sanders hopes to join in September of this year as a new academy. If you were able to attend the Awards Evening in January, you could not have failed to be impressed and engaged by the shared pride and commitment and the variety of achievement being celebrated. These are the qualities that define Sanders School, which we are committed to supporting and extending as the school progresses through a sequence of change and development towards a secure and successful future as an academy and a member of the SFAET Multi-Academy Trust. Redden Court is the lead school, with Mr Paul Ward as Executive Head. Although it is a very bureaucratic procedure, progress towards becoming an academy and joining SFAET in September 2018 is on track.

When we advertised the post of Headteacher in February, we were delighted to have twenty-one very strong applications, all from candidates with extensive and varied school leadership experience. The selection process was demanding and thorough. As well as appreciating the friendly efficiency with which many staff contributed to the two days, we were very impressed by and grateful for the maturity and thoughtfulness of the students who also played a key part. Without ever being less than courteous, they made it clear that they had high expectations of anyone with aspirations to lead their school. All the candidates commented on the students' poise and perceptiveness. We are now happy to announce the appointment of Mr Stuart Brooks as Headteacher. He will take up his post at the beginning of September 2018. Mr Brooks is currently Deputy Head at School 21 in East London. School 21 was judged 'outstanding' at its recent Ofsted inspection, with credit given to the quality and impact of its leadership. As well as deputising for the headteacher on occasion, Mr Brooks leads on progress and attainment and oversees the day-to-day running of this all-through school (Reception to Sixth Form). Ofsted inspectors commented on students' excellent attitudes to learning, and noted that 'a well-researched, innovative and creative way of organising subjects promotes outstanding learning'. At Sanders, we will welcome the vision and experience Mr Brooks brings with him to enhance our school's existing strengths.

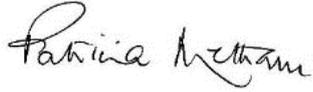
We would like you to meet Mr Brooks, hear what he has to say about his approach to this next step for Sanders - and, of course, for him - and to ask him questions. There will be a meeting at the school, at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 24th April. I hope you will be able to attend.

The key to any school's success is the quality of its leadership. When the resignation of the Headteacher last September might have left a damaging vacuum, Mr Hooper, senior Deputy Head at the time, put the immediate needs of Sanders above his own plans and personal priorities, and took on the role of Interim Headteacher. The strength of his commitment to the well-being and progress of students and staff and his practical, problem-solving approach have given the school the stability and resilience it has needed to respond constructively to the kinds of challenge you will have heard of nationally, such as significantly reduced funding and changing examination requirements. He has been ably supported by the senior leadership team, with, for example, Mrs Braggins as Deputy Head adding responsibility for teaching and learning to her initial role as pastoral leader. That

team will remain essentially unchanged, with Mr Hooper as Senior Deputy Head, when Stuart Brooks joins Sanders in September.

Governance of Sanders School will continue to be the responsibility of the IEB for the time being. To ensure that we can efficiently meet the demands that responsibility brings, I am pleased to say that the Regional Schools' Commission for our district has agreed to our recruiting two additional members: Mr Keith Williams and Mr David Hodge. You will find their profiles on the website.

Thank you for your continuing support for all that Sanders School does for your children.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Metham".

Chair of the Sanders School Interim Executive Board