

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

21st July 2017

Dear parents, carers and families

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of term. What a year it has been. The progress shown by each child has been phenomenal and they have gone from strength to strength. We are so proud of each and every one and their many accomplishments. The fun and laughter that we have had throughout this academic year and the tears of joy when students have done things for the first time. I look forward to some down time over the summer and reflecting on all of the memories that I have from this year.

I am so proud to finish this academic year with us having achieved good on both Ofsted inspections in both Endeavour House and in Education which celebrated the many amazing feats of our students, the dedication of all staff and the family atmosphere at Endeavour. Thank you to all parents who have been so supportive throughout the year in all that we have asked of you.

It has been a great honour and privilege leading Endeavour throughout the year.

As ever at the end of term, we have to say goodbye to some of our students:

It has come to that time of year where we sadly have to say goodbye and good luck to some of our Endeavour family. We are incredibly proud of all their achievements and grateful for the opportunity to share their journey with them.

Rachel has been with us since we started. Her many achievements include, regular work experience at the Eatwell Café in Barton, SOFEA (food bank), Vana Farm and serving students and staff in the Enterprise Jacket Potato Café, developing walking for exercise and enjoyment and her confidence in an increasing variety of environments, including, most recently, a Ball at St Hilda's College.

Rachel is moving onto Lufton College in Somerset where she will follow an individualised study programme, to match her needs, personal decisions and future aspirations. Rachel will be enjoying a course that will enhance her catering skills, develop her life skills and offer work experience opportunities.

Oli also started at Endeavour when we first opened. Oli has especially impressed staff with his ability to independently complete familiar practical tasks, for example, watering the circle class vegetable borders, art and crafts at school, wood work projects at Penny Hooks Farm and looking after their livestock. Oli has also increased his confidence to access different environments and to make his voice heard. This term Oli told us he wanted to go to see a lizard and helped to plan a visit to a local specialist reptile shop where he was able to handle a Bearded Dragon. Oli loves to be outdoors and has shared many happy walks in Shotover Country Park with peers and staff.

Next year he will be starting at Sheiling College in Dorset. There Oli will follow a hands-on curriculum with learning opportunities that match his interests. He will be enjoying a person centred curriculum focused around his woodwork and his gardening talents. The college is in a beautiful natural setting giving Oli easy access to work experience and recreation in the outdoors he so loves.

Luke T, also an 'Endeavour original', is moving on. Luke loves watching and interacting with others. He has worked especially well in intensive interaction sessions and is a pleasure to spend time with. Luke's achievements include, weekly work experience at Vana Farm, where he independently follows routines to feed and water animals, fantastic drumming sessions, gaining the confidence to mount independently from the ramp in horse riding sessions and recently enthusiastic joining in with Flamenco dancing. Luke has also worked well communicating with Proloquo to go on the iPad to make requests and choices.

Luke W joined Endeavour in May 2015. This term Luke has especially impressed staff on community visits. On Fridays he has accessed various local cultural and recreational activities with peers. These have included visits to The University Museum, the Botanic Gardens, libraries, OXSRAD gym, bowling and mini golf. Luke has contributed to Jacket Potato Café through weekly preparation of salad, receiving payment, giving change and charming customers with his smile.

Luke T and Luke W will both be joining MAP College in Abingdon. There they will follow a highly individualised programme focusing on developing life skills. Learning will take place both on campus and through accessing activities and work experiences in the community.

It is time for them to fly the nest and move into adulthood. We will miss them greatly and thank them for the joy that they have brought to our hearts every day. We look forward to hearing about all of the amazing journeys that they have in the future and will hopefully see them at some of our whole school events in the future.

We look forward to welcoming Louis, Zaki, Darragh, Sasha, Isobel and Jack and their families in September.

Staff Leavers

We sadly say goodbye to some staff today. Michaela Soporova is returning to be with her family in Wales. Hannah Mortimer is looking forward to undertaking some part time teaching in London, Raquel Juarez and Lola Romera are both returning to Spain to undertake further studies. Tim

Gladstone is undertaking teacher training in being a secondary school history teacher. Joel Revelli is returning home. Sian Pratchett will be going on maternity leave in the next few weeks.

Thank you to all of the above staff for their dedication and commitment to Endeavour. They will always be part of the Endeavour family and we look forward to hearing of their many adventures in the next stage of their journey.

We welcome new staff in September: Anna Shenton, Allan Taylor, Wendy Heycock, and Ella Pevsner.

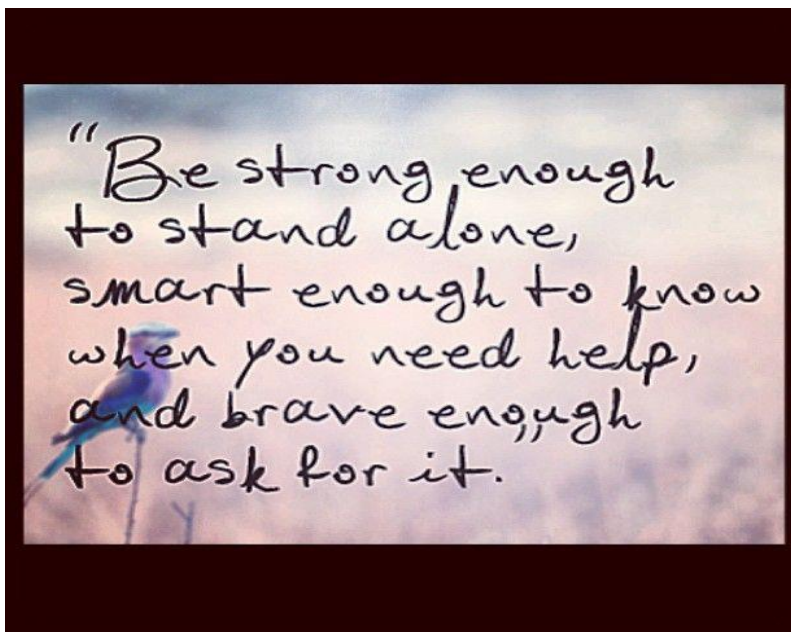
Summer Holiday

If you have a few moments towards the start of term, I would be very grateful if you could drop us a line letting us know how the summer has gone.

Preparations are well underway in Endeavour House for summer activities. Thank you to all staff in advance for giving our children so many opportunities during the summer months.

We look forward to welcoming the children back at 9am on Tuesday 5th September 2017.

To finish on this week's quote:



We Endeavour to be the best.....

Best wishes and Happy Summer

Angela O'Rourke
Principal