

2nd October 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year: The new Y7 and Y12 students have settled in brilliantly, DfE have confirmed very positive Progress 8 outcomes from our GCSE results (which will be published on 16th October) and the school improvement works which have been happening over the last few months are drawing to a successful completion.

Eaton Bank Academy continues to be highly successful with growing popularity leading to rapid increases in the number of students. The number on roll at Eaton Bank Academy in September of this year, at the start of the term, has increased by nearly 100 pupils compared to last term and we anticipate further increase by similar numbers over the next two years, following record attendance at our open evening last month.

As you know, over the last few years, significant investment (in excess of £5m) has been made in the school's buildings and infrastructure. We are continuing to secure new investment into the school and are very happy to confirm that we are currently working with our community (including Vale Juniors FC and Football Foundation) to deliver a 3G pitch at Eaton Bank, a project value in excess of £700k. This will enhance our future offer to students supporting the school's high aspirations and academic achievements.

It is now six years since we acquired academy status and we continue to benefit from this in an enormous range of ways. Working closely with the national schools' funding agency (ESFA), Eaton Bank Academy has a clear strategic plan, which is fully funded and will provide our students with a solid foundation to allow them to flourish based on our high expectations.

As you may be aware, the national drive to develop multi-school academies has been a key part of the government's education policy for several years, which is leading to the development of schools working together as Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). We are very mindful of potential developments that will enhance Eaton Bank Academy, although any decision to join a MAT has to be driven by many considerations, which will include academic, cultural and financial factors, with the trustees making the final decision on the best option available to them to allow the academy to become even stronger across the age ranges. We have been involved in discussions, with other secondary schools in Cheshire, to explore potential possibilities for enhancing Eaton Bank Academy as part of a Multi Academy Trust. These discussions have included a number of local secondary schools, as well as a school from Cheshire West (The County High School Leftwich) although at this point in time the governors have made the decision not to go further with those discussions. Eaton Bank Academy's governors will continue to consider suitable MAT opportunities and will keep parents and carers informed as to any exciting future developments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in anticipation of another excellent academic year ahead.

Yours faithfully

Ed O'Neill
Headteacher