



The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



Executive Headteacher: Ms Maria Gilmore

Eliot Bank School
Thorpewood Avenue
London SE26 4BU
Tel: 020 8699 0586
info@eliotbank.lewisham.sch.uk
Head of School: Ms Maria Gilmore

Gordonbrock School
Amyruth Road
London SE4 1HQ
Tel: 020 8690 0704
admin@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs Jane Wright

20 June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

In March 2022, Eliot Bank took part in a Quality of Education Review, carried out by the local authority Lewisham Learning Team. This review is offered to schools to give them an up to date overview of their strengths and development points, from an external point of view.

We are proud of many aspects of the review and we would like to share some quotes from the report with you all:

'Behaviour in lessons is excellent and this is helped by very well-established routines and high expectations. There are high levels of self-regulation amongst pupils and their motivation to learn is strong. Pupils themselves are a real strength of the school. They readily work with one another and teachers, or other adults, and are enthusiastic about school.'

'School and Federation Leaders set very high standards and expectations for the quality of the curriculum and its delivery. Consequently, the curriculum underpinning English and mathematics, and indeed the wider curriculum, is strong. It is well sequenced and provides systematic progression as pupils move through the school. Subject links across the curriculum are very well developed and support pupils in retaining important knowledge and deepening understanding.'

'The diversification of the curriculum to ensure good representation of pupils in the content is being embedded with considerable care and thought. The displays in mathematics, for example, include successful black female mathematicians and their stories.'

'High quality and well-chosen texts provide the context for learning within English and other subjects. The texts being used, have been broadened to include a diverse range and add richness to the curricular experiences of pupils across the school...displays around the school include work pupils have undertaken using texts such as I Love My Hair, which focuses on black hair, and provides strong, positive reinforcement of diversity; non-fiction texts showcasing the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama have been used equally well to inspire pupils' vibrant and creative art pieces which are also on display.'

'In addition, the curriculum and pedagogy have been influenced by drawing on good quality, robust and research work on cognitive science. Leaders reflect deeply on the key messages from the research they are undertaking, this includes the research work on diversification of the curriculum, to inform their decisions about the design and development of the curriculum.'



'Visits to lessons indicate that teachers probe pupils' understanding well by posing questions that make them think. The talk for learning is well embedded across the school. Good use of pair-talk, for example, gives pupils time to discuss important points in English or mathematics before they are asked to answer teachers' questions. The focus on vocabulary and encouraging pupils to use correct vocabulary and technical terms in both English and mathematics support their learning well.'

'Teaching Assistants are deployed well and, in all lessons visited, they worked effectively with individuals and small groups of pupils. They are well briefed and know the school's routines and the expectations of them. Teaching Assistants were knowledgeable about the areas of work they were supporting pupils with and generally questioned pupils well, following similar lines of enquiry to teachers.'

'Strengths in teaching include good use of practical materials in mathematics to help pupils conceptual understanding of mathematical ideas, especially more abstract ideas. Teachers generally had good resources to work from and to support pupils' learning. Pupils' books show that they are working hard; short bursts of writing alongside good quality extended pieces of writing are evident in their books across the school. In mathematics, pupils are making systematic progress in developing their understanding of number and reasoning.'

'Being part of the Federation has been important in enabling the right support and coaching to be provided for teachers, especially newer teachers and those in the school covering for an interim period.'

'The early years provision is strong. The Nursery and Reception classes have well developed outdoor areas where children are able to engage in a wide range of practical activities including those that support early reading and writing and their mathematical development. There are lots of opportunities for mark making and writing and good focus on numbers with number lines dotted around the areas. The development of children's gross and fine motor skills are also very well promoted, and this also provides strong underpinning for writing.'

'In the early years, adults interact well with children asking questions and highlighting learning opportunities for them through the range of activities available. The learning journeys show the development of children's writing and the great progress they are making. They also illustrate the wide range of work that children have been engaged in, including development of a sound foundation in numbers to prepare them for Year One.'

'The joint work during the review between reviewers and school leaders indicates that leaders are evaluative and analytical about the quality of the school's work. They are accurate in their judgements and clear about the next steps needed to secure further development.'

As well as celebrating the many strengths of our school, the review was also very helpful in confirming that we had already identified the correct priorities for further development in our school improvement planning. These priorities will continue to feature in our new School Improvement Plan for September 2022 and we look forward to sharing them with you then, as we launch the new academic year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Mary Quinn, currently one of our Assistant Headteachers, will be taking on the temporary role of Acting Deputy



Headteacher with immediate effect. Ms Quinn will continue to be the class teacher for 6MQ, but her appointment will undoubtedly add more capacity to our Senior Leadership Team as we continue to plan the recruitment of a new Head of School. We will update you on plans for this as soon as we can – in the meantime, we congratulate Ms Quinn on her promotion and wish her every success in the role.

It was lovely to see so many of you in school last week for our singing performances and we look forward to future opportunities to gather as a community – not least at the Eliot Bank Summer Fair on Saturday 25 June 2022. Make sure you save the date!

Many thanks for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,



Maria Gilmore
Executive Headteacher



Lorraine McGuire
Deputy Headteacher
Inclusion



Andrea Osmond
Deputy Headteacher
Curriculum & Assessment

