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New Principal - Sofia Darr

Waverley Studio College are delighted to announce that they have appointed Sofia Darr into the role of Principal, marking the latest milestone for improving education in Birmingham. Ms Darr took up her position after the Easter break. She has over 17 years' experience of working in education of which over 7 years have been in senior leadership roles in schools across the UK.

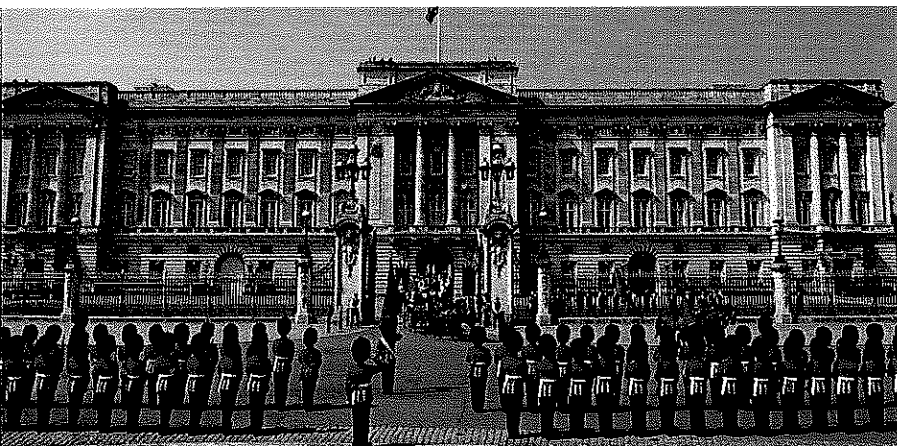
Kamal Hanif, CEO, said "We were extremely fortunate to be able to choose from a very strong field. Having put the candidates through their paces in the thorough interview process, we felt that Ms Darr's strong vision and leadership, combined with her proven track record driving outstanding practice in education will provide a strong foundation for learning at Waverley Studio College. She is an outstanding leader and teacher who is totally committed to achieving excellent outcomes for our young people at Waverley Studio College. She is totally aligned to our vision and ethos and will be a real asset to the Studio College."

Ms Darr said "I am delighted to be appointed to this key role as Principal and am looking forward to working with the community in delivering an excellent education for young people at the Studio College. I am passionate about transforming the lives of young people and excited about leading a school which places students at the heart of everything it does."

Waverley Studio College will be a school which believes in high expectations and equips students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to succeed in life"



Invitation To Buckingham Palace



Students from the Studio College have been invited to a conference at Buckingham Palace to be held in July.

This is an amazing opportunity for Studio College students to represent Birmingham and share their views on excellence in education.

Four students from Year 10 and 12 will be meeting with the Duke of York and other dignitaries. If you would like more information please speak with Mr Sandhu Leader of Science.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Report

This term has ended on a high not only for the students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, but also for the staff that have become involved in supervising it. Over the past year we have had 23 students complete their Bronze Awards and have 9 students on the verge of completing their Bronze Award. We also have a further 3 students about to embark on the Bronze level, and 14 students currently working on Silver.

We have embarked on the expedition section of the Award this term for both Bronze and Silver levels, with a training camp at the end of April at Beaudesert Scout Campsite in Cannock Chase, and the Silver practice expedition in the middle of May at two campsites in the area of Church Stretton in Shropshire. Both of these trips have proved to be a steep learning curve for students and staff, but a hugely enjoyable experience. We are now eagerly looking forward to our planned future expeditions for both Bronze and Silver levels.

The students have really excelled on the recent trips, and made the staff at Studio College extremely proud of their achievements. The Duke of Edinburgh Awards are designed to be a challenge, and our students have certainly been challenged physically, mentally and emotionally by this section of the award. The students not only faced walking for hours (seven and a half hours each day to be precise) on this last camp, but they faced

extreme weather conditions as well. The students that took part in our practice expedition were divided into two teams of 7, and managed to navigate their way independently around unfamiliar countryside with only an ordinance survey map and a compass to help them.

The trainers from both camps have been full of praise for our students recognising the huge improvements that the students made during both camps.

Going forward our Silver participants are planning to create a Food Bank in aid of the charity Shelter in the run up to, and during Ramadan. This will start them in the work needed to complete the volunteering section of their award. We would be very grateful for any food products with a long shelf life, for example: tins, pasta, rice, lentils etc, that you can spare to help them with their project. Drop boxes are going to be provided for all our students to leave any contributions.

Well done to all students that have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme so far. Keep up your fantastic efforts, we are very much looking forward to seeing you take on the challenges of your next steps to completing your awards.

Jeanette Butterfield

“Duke of Edinburgh award prepares young people for life and work”