

Learning for Life!



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

9th March 2021

Dear Parents, carers, pupils, staff and members of the Lonsdale community

I am absolutely delighted to share with that Lonsdale School will be 50 years old this year!

Lonsdale School was originally located in another part of Stevenage and opened in 1971. Lonsdale has been a beacon of light for so many families in Hertfordshire, and outside of the County, whose children have physical and neurological impairments. The current team continue to build on the very firm foundations created by the staff who worked at the school at the beginning, and we feel it only to right to look back and celebrate the past, whilst also looking forward to our new and exciting future.

Lonsdale has never been afraid to push the boundaries on things that are possible – can't is a word we just don't understand. Previous Lonsdale pupils were told they would not be able to live independently –so we opened a Residential Education Provision to teach pupils how to live independently. Previous Lonsdale pupils were told they would not be able to communicate, so we found devices and software that meant they could. Some of our students were told they couldn't take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, or travel abroad, but, as you know, they did, and it is this determination, learning for life, and can-do attitude that we want to remember, and celebrate.

This is such an amazing milestone in our history that we feel it would be appropriate to celebrate our school, our past pupils, parents and members of staff, and we would like to ask for your comments as to how you think we should go about this. If you have any old photographs, stories or memories that you would be happy to share with us, we will put them all together in celebration. Similarly, if you have any ideas as to how we could celebrate this occasion, we would love to hear from you. I have attached a link below to a short survey, which I would be grateful if you could complete, so we can start planning for the Summer Term.

On behalf of the Lonsdale community, past and present, I would like to thank you for your support, and we look forward to celebrating this milestone with you all.

Annemari Ottridge
Headteacher

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