

# All change

*Developments are afoot at the Oak-Tree Group of four independent schools, all based in the West Essex area. This September is set to see a strengthening of its leadership teams with two new heads and a full-time role for the education principal*



After the previous head's retirement, Moreen Barnard has taken over at Coopersale Hall School in Epping



Jacqueline Job was previously deputy head of North Bridge House Prep in Camden

**T**hese are exciting times for the Oak-Tree Group, the four privately-owned independent schools located in West Essex, having recently announced developments to its leadership teams from September 2020. Not only are there two new heads, but the new group education principal will be extending her role to full time.

Claire Osborn, outgoing head of Normanhurst School in North Chingford and current chair of the Independent Schools Association, will take on her group education principal role full time come the start of the autumn term. This will bring a wider responsibility for group-wide areas such as overseeing the teaching, learning and staff development.

At the same time, Mrs Osborn will hand over the Normanhurst headship to Jacqueline Job. Mrs Job comes to the school with a wealth of leadership experience gained from her five years as deputy head of North Bridge House Prep, a mixed 450-pupil school in Camden. Previously, she spent six years as assistant vice principal, then vice principal of Rosedale College in Hayes and, before that, five years at The City of London Academy, the last four as assistant vice principal. She is looking forward to starting at Normanhurst and has already spent much time in school getting to know the pupils, staff and parents.

"Normanhurst is a small school with a big vision," says Mrs Job. "It's a school where pupils of all abilities, aptitudes and social backgrounds thrive and achieve. I'm honoured to be able to lead



Pupils of Epping's Coopersale Hall School will be welcoming their new head in September

the school from the start of September."

Further developments are taking place at Coopersale Hall School in Epping, where after nearly ten years as headmistress, Kaye Lovejoy has decided to retire. Taking her place is Moreen Barnard, previously head of Normanhurst, having joined the group in 2014. She has many years' experience working with pupils from 2½ to 16 and understands the independent sector well. Prior to joining the group, she spent nine years as a class teacher, teacher governor and enrichment coordinator at Uphall Primary School in Ilford.

"I am delighted to be joining Coopersale Hall in September and I am excited to be leading the school to the next stage of its development as we look to extend the school and the excellent education we offer," she says.

Matthew Hagger, group managing principal, is clearly pleased with the forthcoming developments. "This is an opportunity to reshape the leadership teams at two of the schools and also to enhance the group structure by bringing together such a wealth of experience," he says. "We have around 330 staff and 1,000 children across the group and so Claire's full time addition as education principal will provide an enhanced focus on the overall service that we provide. Jacqueline and Moreen are both well-suited to their new schools and I know they will offer inspirational leadership to their respective new school communities." ■