



14 October 2020

Dear Epworth community

Greetings to you all. We have arrived at the last stretch of a very unusual, challenging and strange-as-never-before 2020! In so many ways, despite many difficulties which are not over yet, Epworth has coped excellently in these circumstances. I would like to congratulate everyone, personally and on behalf of the School Trust, for all the hard work, ingenuity, perseverance, endurance and loyalty. Thank you all and well done.

The Trust would like to extend its thanks to Ms Laura Bekker for the years she has spent leading Epworth, dealing with the many challenges as well as the joys associated with the demanding position of Head of School and Principal of the High School. We wish her well in her new, exciting chapter ahead.

We also extend our congratulations to the new School Executive for 2021. The Board and other specialists have worked hard on this new structure to ensure the best possible outcome for the leadership of the school during this period in its history. Many factors this year have affected the decision and the Trust is pleased to give the final approval of and support to the Board's proposal of this new team. It is a different structure, although not new to the school, but carries great potential and is the right leadership format at this time. We wish Mrs Tracey Munro, Mr Reynard White and Mr Emwee Zeelie the very best as they lead Epworth forward in these exciting and challenging times in education.

I would also like to thank the outgoing trustees of the "I believe in Epworth" Trust, Mr Lance Hackney, Mr Ian Ogilvie and Dr Graeme Shuker, for their long association and contribution to the transition process of the new Epworth Foundation Trust. This process has been spearheaded by an Epworthian, Mrs Janet Channing, and is in place to grow the Foundation investments for the sustainability of Epworth. This new trust moves forward with five new trustees and an investment committee.

Finally, the time has come for me to prepare to leave my position as Chair of the School Trust as my term of office finishes at the end of 2020. It is with mixed feelings that I anticipate the conclusion of my 23 years in some form of governance at my dear alma mater. It is sometimes difficult and stressful to be in a position where "the buck stops here" and I could not have

managed without the guidance and support of the other trustees to whom I extend my sincere thanks. My thanks also go to a committed, hard-working board during my time in office, firstly led by Mr Peter Keyworth and now by Mrs Lisa Robertson.

Being part of leadership and serving my old school as a member of the parent body, the Board and the Trust has been exciting and fulfilling. Epworth continues to do well in so many areas. On campus we now have a completed MPC2, a new and improved Prep School library and upstairs extensions, a renovated chapel and a new high-quality organ, a new art studio, an extension to the boarding establishment, a renovated Haley Hall and a new performing arts centre. The redress of gender balance on the School Trust, the Board and the Epworth Foundation Trust, the focussed attention on transformation and diversity, superior academic standards thanks to our committed staff and at the core, our spirituality, are all essential to Epworth's success and growth. I shall now continue enjoying being an Epworthian and a grandparent.

Knowing that I have a capable successor is making the completion of my term of office a lot easier. Mrs Catherine (Cathy) Smith will be taking over as Chair in January 2021. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Cathy:

Born and bred in Pietermaritzburg, Cathy matriculated at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School in 1994. She completed her BA and LLB degrees from 1995 to 1999 at the former University of Natal, and was admitted as an attorney, conveyancer and notary public in 2002. She has been a director at J Leslie Smith legal firm since 2008. She is married to Warren and is a mother to James. Her interests include ballet, roses and cooking. Cathy is particularly passionate about education for girls and has proved to be a committed asset to the School Trust. I have no doubt that she will be an admirable chair and a good role model.

As I say farewell, I give thanks and glory to God for leading me on this part of my journey. I wish you all joyful times, attainment of your goals, good health and peace in your lives.

Best wishes and blessings

Susan Keyworth (Pettit 1970)

Chair of the Epworth School Trust