



18 August 2017

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back is extended to all our students and families and to the new children and families joining us for the first time. On behalf of all our staff team, I wish you all a healthy and successful new school year ahead.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the incoming International Director and together with the Directorate, I will be here to promote our international ethos and to support the systems we have in place that make AFNORTH International School a truly unique school in the world. As you may well know, the role of Director rotates through the nations every five years and it is now the British turn to take on this responsibility. With my family, I join you from another equally diverse cultural environment in Brunei serving the MOD UK Gurhka Battalions and Garrison. This post allowed me to work in partnership with fifty-two international schools across Asia. Arriving here in Brunssum, it is very clear that nowhere in the world can we find the combination of pupils and families with such distinct and diverse cultural needs, living and working so positively together in such a vibrant international community. All of this taking place in this wonderful location in southern Limburg. I feel deeply privileged to be joining you all.

From the moment of my first visit earlier in the year, when the school was in the middle of a special 50 years' birthday celebration, it was clear that the school successfully encouraged a sense of belonging within a strong school and local community. This is no easy task to achieve as we know that every cultural group has its own unwritten rules and rituals and working together, sharing such amazing facilities demands key values of patience, tolerance, and understanding from all. Undoubtedly a challenge, but incredibly exciting, especially in times of such global and technological change. In this rapidly changing world, we must prepare our students for not only their next stage of education, but also for the the world they will be part of when they are independent adults. This preparation is a huge shared responsibility for us as parents and practitioners in school. It is through working together, placing high priority on a values-led approach to all that we do, and by believing even the smallest of positive effort can make a difference, that we all continue to successfully work, serve and live happily together in this very special environment. The uniqueness of AfNORTH International School brings about endless possibilities for our students. As a parent of a young student joining the school I am delighted that my child will be able to take advantage of the range of opportunities to learn in such a culturally rich diverse environment with such a talented group of professionals.

Our partnership with parents and our local community is very important to us. We want all our students to access the very best learning opportunities, to believe in themselves and to believe that as an individual they can make a difference in the world and can influence their own future. As adults, how we role model working with each other, for each other and on behalf of each other will be a key to our students' future success. I look forward to working with you, getting to know you, and to continue making that difference together.

Kathy Wood MBE MEd  
Director

