

# YOUR EDUCATION NEWS

## School staff with 58 years service between them

TWO members of staff at a village primary school will by this summer have clocked up 58 years of service between them.

Sharon Bergamini, senior teaching assistant and midday assistant, has worked at Boreham Primary School for 28 years.

Caretaker Norman Smith, known as 'Smithy', has been at the school for 30 years.

Ian Bowyer, head teacher at Boreham Primary School, said: "Both Sharon and Norman's lengthy service to the school is quite remarkable. They have remained loyal to the school throughout so many changes, working for four head teacher's. They are both Boreham through and through and a huge part of our school and wider village community."

The school plans to hold a celebration party in due course, inviting past head teachers to attend.

When asked why she had remained at the school for so long, Sharon said: "I love the kids and the environment and there is so much more to do which I still want to be very much part of."

"It's not like proper work and a normal job. The school is part of my life and family."

One of Norman's key memories was when the school had an extension. He said: "In 1996, we had the extension built at Boreham. This created two new classrooms which are now the kitchen and the old computing suite. The day the builders pumped in the concrete floor base, they got the whole school outside to watch and the pump broke. So it didn't happen, much to my amusement."



Sharon Bergamini and Norman Smith have between them clocked up 58 years of service at Boreham Primary School

## Academy eases the transition for pupils moving to secondary level

CHILDREN moving to secondary school in September are meeting their teachers, taking a tour of the building and completing work - all via the internet.

With schools looking likely to remain closed to the majority of students until after the summer break, the transition of Year 6 children into their first year at secondary has had to be adapted.

Those due to join Year 7 in September are already in regular contact with Maltings Academy, in Witham. To ease the transition, the school has:

- Set up a "keeping in touch" page on its website dedicated to the cohort.
- Shared a virtual tour of the school building.
- Recorded messages from key members of staff, including head of Year 7 Mark Skinner.
- Started sending out a Year 6 newsletter.
- Given students an opportunity to share their work with their new peers and teachers.
- Held consultation appointments with pupils on the telephone.

■ Been in contact with primary schools, parents and children to gather as much information about the students as possible.

■ Contacted students weekly since Easter to begin building links.

■ Set optional work for students to complete at home in English, maths, science and geography.

Lu Craker, primary liaison manager, said: "At the moment, we do not know what will happen with our previously planned transition days in July. We are giving our new Year 7 students lots of information, so they can feel as prepared for joining us as possible."

"We are gathering knowledge on our new students and will continue to build on that. We are reviewing and reflecting regularly and responding to what parents need. We are trying to do our best in a very unnatural situation."

"Our school is very good at building links with our families. That's what makes a good school a better school."

"The first thing we will do when they do get into school is make them feel safe and happy."



Lu Craker, primary liaison manager, and Mark Skinner, head of year, ready to welcome the new cohort at Maltings Academy in Witham