



Downe House

29 September 2017

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Celebrating 20 years of Headship for Emma McKendrick**

Last night, governors, long-serving staff and former staff members joined together in celebrating Emma McKendrick's 20 years of headship at Downe House School in Cold Ash near Newbury.

With two decades at the helm, Mrs McKendrick has provided the unstinting leadership and insight required to keep Downe House at the very top of its field in girls' boarding.

Also celebrating long service were Mrs Michelle Scott, Assistant Headmistress Foundation (20 years), Mr Mark Hill, Academic Deputy (20 years) Mrs Lydia Rayne, Director of Sport (20 years) and Mrs Paula Machin, Head of Swimming and PE teacher (30 years).

The Chairman of Governors, Mr Matthew Kirk, presented Mrs McKendrick with a beautiful oil painting by Downe alumna Harriet Pattinson and commented, "Emma has shown exceptional dedication and leadership as Headmistress of Downe House, helping it to evolve in a fast-changing world whilst remaining true to the vision and values of the founder, Olive Willis. We couldn't be more proud to celebrate her 20 years of headship and to anticipate the realization of her future plans for the School, such as the Centre for Learning. She is widely admired for creating a thriving, happy and successful community of girls, where each pupil can be her best. Long may it continue! The long service of the colleagues who join her to celebrate today is testament to the loyalty that she inspires."

-ENDS-

**Note to editors:** Downe House is an independent boarding school for girls aged 11-18 located in Cold Ash, Thatcham.

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