



Helen Barrington

Solicitor

Director of Legal & Democratic Services

Derbyshire County Council

County Hall

Matlock

Derbyshire, DE4 3AG

To Headteachers of Derbyshire Schools

Ask for: Helen Barrington

Email: helen.barrington@derbyshire.gov.uk

Our ref: HB/EMR/Freewoman of Derbyshire

Your ref:

Date: 21 June 2024

Dear Headteacher,

RE FREEWOMAN OF THE COUNTY OF DERBYSHIRE

I am pleased to contact you in relation to an important council event due to take place next month. The County Council has decided to bestow the honour of Freewoman of the County of Derbyshire on Millie Bright. This is a momentous decision as it is the highest honour the Council can bestow on a member of the public and the first time it has been done.

Millie grew up in Derbyshire, having been born in Chesterfield, and attended Killamarsh Junior School and Eckington School. She began her footballing career at the age of nine playing for her local team, the Killamarsh Dynamos and has played for both Doncaster Rovers Belles and Chelsea. However it is the part she played in the extraordinary success of the England Football team at the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 and FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 for which she is being recognised.

It is clear that the huge increase in interest and participation in football generally, but specifically from girls and women, is in no small part because of role models like Millie. I understand that Millie is particularly proud of the positive impact she has had on young people. As part of the Council's event we wanted to be able to share with Millie positive messages from young people across Derbyshire who consider her to be a role model and inspiration. I am therefore reaching out to you to enquire whether you would be prepared to ask young people at your school, as you consider appropriate, if they wish to write a message to Millie. We intend to put the messages in a book to be presented to Millie when the Council formally bestows the honour on her.

We are simply looking for a short message about why the young person considers Millie to be a role model and inspiration, together with their first name, age and school (no larger than A4). We ask that you do not provide a full name or any other personal information relating to the young person.

If you would be prepared to support this, please could you collate the messages and send them to Michelle Archer, Business Manager, Member and Management

Support Service, Legal and Democratic Services Division, Corporate Services and Transformation, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG to reach her by **Wednesday 10 July**. We are not asking for comments from all the young people at your school – all comments will be greatly received and I am sure very much appreciated by Millie.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle at michelle.archer@derbyshire.gov.uk or on 01629 535560.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen E. Barrington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'B' at the end.

Helen Barrington
Director of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer