



## Emma Garrett

### Development Director

### Eastbourne College

As the Eastbourne College (Incorporated) ('ECi') Development Director, Emma looks after alumni and benefactor relations for both St Andrew's Prep School and Eastbourne College, the two schools in the charity. She manages communications and relationships with all members of the Eastbournian Society which brings together former pupils and academic and support staff and parents - past and present - as well as a wider community whose common interests are the success of the school and the college. The Society provides a series of social, sporting and cultural events internationally as well as career and business-networking opportunities, both on and offline.

Emma is well qualified for this role being an Old Eastbournian herself. Brought up in School House where her father, Philip Le Brocq, a member of the English Department, was housemaster, Emma then joined the sixth form at the College. She went on to study English and Theatre Studies at the University of Warwick, and then worked in television before starting a family. She took some time off from work but, in practice, never really stopped; if she wasn't running the school PTA, she was putting on events for charity, or performing in the local chorus.

She lived abroad for many years before settling in Bedford with her OE husband Richard and five children. She describes her career as 'squiggly' but wouldn't have had it any other way, and believes that her varied experiences as a mother, entrepreneur, business-owner, volunteer, charity-fundraiser and deputy-lieutenant in the county of Bedfordshire have all been invaluable; pieces of the jigsaw that create the picture of who she is today.

Her forward-thinking, tenacity and perseverance were crucial when she decided to renovate disused buildings in Bedford and convert them into thriving award-winning cafés and community hubs. She ran a social-media business alongside her park cafés, providing training and social-media management for charities, and small and medium-sized enterprises. She has been vice-patron for Autism Bedfordshire and an ambassador for the charity Schoolreaders. She is the founder of Bedford's SoupFest and, until recently, sat on the Bedford Homeless Partnership Executive Committee.

After her husband Richard tragically died at the end of 2018, she galvanised family and friends, raising £100,000 for charity in his memory. She is a self-confessed foodie and having relocated back to Sussex three years ago, is on a one-woman mission to visit every winery in the South East. Emma joined IDPE in 2021 and is delighted to be on the conference committee this year.

**#IDPEAnnualConference**