

WH/RNM

1st November 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

Clifford Moor Road
Boston Spa
West Yorkshire
LS23 6RW

It is with great sadness that I share with you the news of the passing of our friend and former colleague Steve Waddington after a period of illness.

After graduating from the University of Aberdeen with an MA in English Language and Literature, Steve completed an MPhil in American Literature at Leeds University. He first taught at Colne Valley High School from 1975, was promoted to Wetherby High School in 1980, joining Boston Spa School in 1986 staying until his retirement as Deputy Headteacher in 2010.

I have worked with few colleagues held in such regard and affection as Steve. All valued his kindness, compassion and good humour. I prized his counsel, knowing that not only would it hold integrity, moral purpose and wisdom but also that he would be right. He held hope for the hardest to reach, never gave up and always offered every child a way forward. He was admired for this professionalism and held the trust of families, children and staff.

As an English teacher he was known for his delight in stories, poems and language and sharing these with others. Every note and letter he wrote was impeccably crafted and imbued with his distinct voice and script.

No conversation about Steve goes far without reference to acts of unsolicited generosity, thoughtfulness and kindness. I sat for a moment in Steve's old office this morning and remembered the morning I found him marking. Steve's school responsibilities at that time didn't leave time for teaching so when I came into school, for what I thought was an early start, I was surprised to find him at his desk working through a pile of exam scripts. On my enquiry as to what he was doing he explained that the previous evening he had walked past the English office and seen all the Year 11 mock exams ready for marking; he thought there looked a lot, so he went in and took the file allocated for the newest member of staff and was now marking it.

Our school community is immeasurably richer for the privilege of working with Steve and for the contribution he made. Our thoughts are with Anne, his wife, and Stephen, his son.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Headteacher

