



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505 Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: reception@svf.org.uk

www.svf.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

17 February 2022

Dear Parent/carer and student.

As you will be aware last week a very valued and loved member of staff lost her battle with cancer. The sad death of Ms Colette Da Prato has been a big shock and left a very big hole in the SVF family. I have been very touched by the number of parents, pupils, ex pupils and ex colleagues who have contacted me to send their condolences, also to let me know just how special Colette was to them. I would like to say thank you to everyone who has taken the time to tell me this or to mark Colette's life.

Colette's funeral is to be held on the Wednesday 2nd March at Tynemouth Crematorium. I am very aware that there are a vast number of staff and young pupils, as well as members of the community who would like to attend this event. Sadly, I am not able to let everyone go, but I do feel that people should be given the opportunity to say goodbye to Colette, pay their respects and show just how important she was to the SVF family.

I have therefore been in contact with Ms Da Prato's partner and we have arranged that on Wednesday 2nd March at 13.45, Colette's funeral cortege will drive past the schools on Elsdon Avenue and the pupils and staff from ACHS will be outside to clap the cars as they drive past.

We are currently putting the final plans in place for this event, but we feel it will allow everyone the chance to say goodbye to Colette, also by applauding her show just how much she meant to us.

All pupils at ACHS will be escorted outside to take part in the event and we have informed the police so that they can support us, and I will also be informing the Parish Council so that they are aware and also the local residents group as well.

Following this event, the pupils will then return to school for their last lesson, but we will monitor them to see how they are doing.

If you as parents, ex-colleagues or ex-pupils wish to join us that would be great. We will of course make sure that pupils are kept safe and we will do registers before and after the event to make sure every pupil returns to school.

I am aware that this event will cause some disruption for about 15 minutes on Elsdon Avenue and I am aware that the pathways outside the school will be busy but I hope that the local community will understand why this is happening and accept the need for this disruption to happen.

The plan for the event will ensure that lunches will happen and pupils will be fed but they will be at different times than usual.

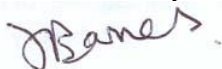
As soon as the plans have been finalised and we have spoken to the police and Parish Council we will share with you the more detailed plan.

The SVF will be represented by Mr Scott Head of School for Astley and Mr Gilhooley Lead Practitioner for Pastoral.

Finally, we have set up an online book of condolences and we hope that you will take some time to share your views, memories and thoughts about Colette in this book. The link to the book is here
<https://colettedaprato.muchloved.com>

Once again thank you for the support you have shown the SVF during this sad time. It has been heart-warming to know just how important Colette was to so many people.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher