



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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Dear Parent/Carer

It is with great sadness that I share with you the news that our Head of Mathematics, Mrs Joanne Evans died yesterday. Her death was unexpected and not related to the current pandemic in any way.

Mrs Evans was universally loved by pupils and staff alike; she was an outstanding teacher who cared very deeply about the success and wellbeing of each and every one of her students. Over her time here, Mrs Evans has taught thousands of pupils, knowing them as individuals as well as members of her class.

I always describe our school community as an 'extended family' and I know that this is how Mrs Evans regarded our school. She made a huge impact with so many of our pupils, past and present, always finding time for pupils, parents and members of staff, even when she was extremely busy running the Maths Department.

If you have listened to any of my speeches or read my blog, you will know that I often quote Mother Theresa as she has been an inspiration to me all my adult life. At this very sad time, I would like to share one of her quotes; ***"I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'"***

By this measure, Mrs Evans will be able to testify all the love she gave to thousands of pupils and to everyone who knew her.

I know this news will be received with as much sadness by the pupil and parent body as it has been by all staff and Governors of the school. The profound dedication shown by Mrs Evans to her job and our school over the last 15 years meant that she was loved by everyone and will be missed by all those who knew her or had contact with her. Please keep Mrs Evans and her family in your thoughts and in your prayers.

Under 'normal' circumstances we would offer masses, collective worship and face to face support for any of our pupils who feel upset or distressed in any way. Unfortunately at this time of social distancing and limited contact, our normal support mechanisms are not feasible. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of additional assistance to your family during this time and we will do our utmost to offer help and support.

From tomorrow, there will be an electronic book of condolence on the school website should you wish to contribute to this.

Yours faithfully

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher

