

Headteacher: Mrs Kelli Foster  
BA (Hons) with QTS

Mark Rutherford School  
Wentworth Drive  
Bedford MK41 8PX



**MARK RUTHERFORD  
SCHOOL**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform of some very sad news. Mrs Bye-Gannon, a well-loved and respected ex-member of staff who left us just last Easter, died suddenly in hospital last Friday. This was following a very brief battle with cancer. Mrs Bye-Gannon joined our school in 2017 as an English teacher before taking on a whole school role leading PSHE. She was passionate about education, which also included her research work for a PhD focusing on issues relating to male adolescent mental health. Mrs Bye-Gannon's positivity and enthusiasm for all she did made her a valued colleague.

We informed students via afternoon tutor time today and are also aware that some had already been told through communication in the wider local community. We understand that some students have been affected by this sad news, particularly given the sudden nature of Mrs Bye-Gannon's death. When someone dies, young people may experience many different feelings, such as sadness or anger. Some pupils may feel shocked and upset by the news, while others may be confused or numb. These reactions are all normal.

For more information about speaking to your child regarding Mrs Bye-Gannon's death please visit the Child Bereavement UK website [www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org). If you feel your child needs additional support from the school, please contact their Head of Year.

As a sign of respect, and in order to support staff to attend Mrs Bye-Gannon's funeral, we will be closing the school early on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Students will be in lessons as normal periods 1 to 3 before leaving at 12.20pm. Our canteen will be open as usual at break time for students to pick up a cold lunch, if required.

For students who catch one of our school buses, they will be collected from the usual bus stops at 12.30pm. Students who use the N<sup>o</sup> 27 Grant Palmer service or any other public transport service will need to check the timetable for the next bus to depart after 12.20pm.

We are all deeply saddened by the passing of Mrs Bye-Gannon and our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Foster  
Headteacher

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 Mark Rutherford School

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