



**Friday 21st May 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is the funeral of Mr Blyth. This edition of the Headteacher's update is deliberately brief and dedicated only to the memory of a colleague and teacher who has left an immense void in many people's lives.

The funeral is to be held at 2pm in a setting most fitting to Mr Blyth's love of nature. Several members of staff will be in attendance and, at the request of those who cannot go, a minute's silence will be held in school to allow us all to pay our respects and quietly reflect.

I invite you to read the words below which we contributed, as a school, to Mr Blyth's Order of Service. The words have also been read out to the students, by me, earlier in the week and - thanks largely to the science department - sum up our two lasting memories of a wonderful man whom we will all miss.

*We remember Mr Blyth in two key ways. Firstly, as a person who cared. This was not just about his students, but other staff too: he was quick to thank colleagues and praise them for the things they had done in his typical selfless way. In terms of his students, he was unerringly positive and took a genuine interest in them; they knew this, and valued it highly. Those students who struggled the most academically particularly appreciated Mr Blyth for his unwavering belief in them, and because he knew every single one of them as an individual. Laid back and unflappable, Mr Blyth had the perfect personality for teaching which undoubtedly inspired a generation, and continues to do so.*

*Secondly, Mr Blyth was a person who talked! To everyone! He always had a tale to tell and it would be delivered with warmth and an infectious enthusiasm. Many colleagues loved to hear about his fantastically busy weekends with his beloved wife and family, filled with obscure and exciting adventures. There seemed to be no half measures in anything he did! He clearly lived a life full of love: love for his family, love for music (we remember fondly his involvement in the staff choir), and love for nature - this dominated his personality and transmitted a passion and joy that is a significant part of his legacy.*

*In short, Mr Blyth was the youngest 'old' man we knew with a zest for life that will always be remembered.*

*He is dearly missed as a friend, colleague, and a teacher.*

Yours faithfully

Mrs H. L. Millett  
Headteacher