



Our Ref: AJC/MS

9 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils

Re: Mr Stephen Lond

It is with great sadness and regret that I must inform you that our friend and colleague, Mr Stephen Lond passed away on Monday 6 July 2020.

I know that this will be a great shock to everyone, especially the pupils from Years 5 and 6 and notably, those in Orion class, as well as for the many families at Reynolds who have had their children taught by Mr Lond over the last 20 years.

Mrs Lond, Steve's wife, is aware that I am sharing this information with you. I understand that this will be extremely difficult for the children. I know that it makes it especially difficult for everyone, given the current challenging situation. Please contact us if we can support you in anyway.

A Tribute to Mr Stephen Lond

I have known and worked with Steve since September 2013, when Reynolds Academy joined Tollbar Multi-Academy Trust. Some of our colleagues have worked with Steve for a much longer period - nearly 20 years, in some cases. He was extremely influential in developing and transforming Reynolds Academy into a good school, as an outstanding teacher and a committed, dedicated and highly effective senior leader and Maths co-ordinator.

Steve started working at Reynolds Junior School, as it was known then in 2001 and remained there until he joined the team at Pilgrim Academy in September 2019, where he had a massive impact in a very short space of time and had become very popular with both staff and pupils. Steve was involved in many of the changes we have implemented at Pilgrim Academy and he played a key role during our successful Ofsted inspection in January 2020, where he was praised highly for his leadership of mathematics. Steve was also responsible for recently changing the pastoral house system. Steve initiated the change and designed, created and produced our four new shields and house symbols which will always remain with pride, on display in our main hall.

In addition, Steve took a lead in the re-design of our Library, which we will continue to develop, in memory of Steve, who wanted to ensure that our pupils have a happy and inviting environment, where they can develop a passion for reading.

Steve's real legacy will be the support and guidance he has given hundreds and hundreds of pupils over the last 20 years, mainly at Reynolds Academy and latterly at Pilgrim Academy. His influence as a Year 6 teacher is immeasurable in how he has prepared and guided pupils, not only through their KS2 SATs, but more importantly, in helping develop children into young adults, in preparation for their secondary education and the wider world. I know that there will be many students at Cleethorpes Academy and other secondary schools in the area, who will always be grateful for the superb platform Steve provided them with as they embarked on such an important phase in their lives.

In the classroom, Steve had many quirky and interesting ways to engage the children – and was always making them laugh. I used to love watching Steve teach as he always brought something different and was always trying new techniques to excite and enthral his classes – especially, when he got his guitar out!

Most importantly, Steve was an amazing person and for those of us who have worked with Steve for many years, he was a good friend as well as a colleague. Steve had many hidden talents and interests – he had written and published books on-line; he was an excellent cook; he played the guitar; he was a very creative artist; he was a Grimsby Town supporter – and he was a dedicated and passionate fan of 1970s Progressive Rock music! Steve used to be in work at 7:00am every day and it was not uncommon to walk past Steve's room at 7:15am to see him sitting at his desk, with Genesis, Rush or Yes blaring through his speakers!

Steve was one of the kindest, thoughtful, honest and most caring and humble people I have worked with and known. In addition to supporting pupils during the recent national challenges, taking a lead at the Academy, Steve was also influential in supporting staff with their well-being, by preparing and hosting on-line quiz nights for colleagues which were a big hit and helped to support staff through some difficult times. Steve was in his element as quizmaster!

It was my sad duty to inform colleagues this week across our three primary academies and as you can imagine, everyone is devastated by the news. As one colleague, who knew Steve better than most said to me, 'I'm sad that he has gone but I am not sad that I knew him – I am certainly not sad that I knew him.' That can be said for us all.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with Steve's family and the many friends who knew him so well. No words can do justice to the loss that we all feel but Steve, your legacy will live on in everyone you have helped, supported and cared for throughout your meaningful, purposeful and influential life.

Yours faithfully



Mr A J Clark
Executive Head
Pilgrim Academy



Mrs R Scott
Principal
Reynolds Academy