

17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Mrs Clacher, a highly respected and much-loved member of our teaching staff, passed away yesterday.

After a long and brave battle with cancer, Mrs Clacher became increasingly poorly in recent weeks and passed away peacefully, with her family at her side. Our community has lost an incredible teacher and, more importantly, a great friend. Mrs Clacher will be sorely missed by all of us. We share the deep sadness this loss means for our school community, but I know she will always remain an integral member of our academy and in all our hearts.

I am sure you will join me in sending our deepest condolences to her loved ones and friends, in particular her husband and son, who are uppermost in our thoughts.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hugely positive impact Mrs Clacher had on all of our lives. She joined our school in 2001, when it was James Brindley Science College, and was an excellent teacher, pastoral leader, and friend to our students and staff throughout over two decades of working in education.

We have today shared this news with your child, as we know the significant impact Mrs Clacher had on all our students, and we want to ensure that they know that all necessary pastoral support is on hand for them. We also understand that this very sad news may be difficult for your child to process, and we encourage them to speak with their Head of Year, Raising Standards Leader or Personal Tutor who will ensure they receive the appropriate support. We have tried to answer their questions in school, using age-appropriate and honest language, and we will continue to do so. You may also want to speak to your child about this when they get home.

There are also a number of organisations that provide bereavement support to children such as Child Bereavement UK at [childbereavementuk.org](http://childbereavementuk.org) or ChildLine, which can be reached on 0800 1111 or at [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk).

Our school community owes so much to Mrs Clacher, and, despite our grief, we also have an overwhelming feeling of gratitude. We feel so very fortunate to have worked with her and for her to have

influenced our lives. In the weeks to come, we hope that our staff and students will find opportunities to celebrate the life that Mrs Clacher had with us here at our school, together with the significant contribution she has made.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support - I know that we will join together as the tight-knit school community that we are, as we navigate this great loss.

If you or your child have any questions or require further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr A Fitzgibbon**  
**Principal**