



**Thomas Mills**  
High School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parents,

4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Headteacher's Update Letter 2024/2025 – Letter 4 (out of 4)**

I hope this letter finds you well following the half-term break. I write with some sad news about a well-respected member of staff.

Brian Jones

At the start of the holiday, the school were very sad to learn that Brian Jones, a valued and popular member of our staff, had died after a short illness. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends.

Brian had been a member of the school team for about ten years. He joined us first as a member of the Site Team, and then later he became the DT Technician.

He always had an optimistic and positive outlook; this made him a great friend, as well as underpinning his bravery over recent months.

Tutors will have spoken to their groups about reaching out if they need any help or support following this news. Grief and loss are very personal but generally follow the stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

In time, our sadness will be overtaken by the many wonderful memories we have of working with, and knowing, Brian. Brian had many interests including fishing and dancing. A few years ago, during the pandemic, we created a music video with *Reach for the Skies* and Brian briefly featured dancing with his broom.

It maybe the case that students will have some memories they wish to share, and we can create some memory cards which we can place in the Library and Reprographics. We are in touch with Brian's family and can share these.

Our flag is at half-mast as a sign of respect.

Thank you for your support during this time,

Yours sincerely,

P J Hurst  
Headteacher