

15th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

It is with great sadness that I write to you to inform you that our friend and colleague, Linda Herridge died yesterday after losing her battle with Covid-19, having become unwell during the Christmas holidays. Linda is a much loved and admired member of the St Thomas More family, who worked as a Midday Supervisor at the school since 2016. Our immediate thoughts are with Linda's family and friends.

We are living in very troubled times and like many other families and communities across our country, we are trying to come to terms with our loss. Linda's death is sure to raise many emotions for everyone in our school community, especially our pupils. Lockdown and restrictions prevent us from all being together to process this news, but we will do our utmost to support the children, parents and staff.

We will arrange pupil assemblies, with invites sent out via MSTeams to the children. As the majority of children remain at home, it will be difficult to monitor their reactions, so please do get in contact with us if you have any concerns or if we can be of any assistance. Pupils will be able to email us directly on studentsupport@s-tm.co.uk where pastoral staff will be on hand to support them. There is also a support service available to pupils and parents, with counselling and support offered each and every day, including weekends:

Pupils: www.kooth.com

Parents: www.qwell.io

Talking to your child is the best way to assess how they are feeling and how they are coping with the many challenges that we face at this current time.

Today is a very sad day for us. Please keep Linda, her family and our community in your thoughts and prayers. We continue to think and pray for everyone who is effected by this terrible virus and we continue as a school to work hard to keep everyone safe and well.

I ask that everyone continues to follow Government and NHS guidance in the hope of keeping you and your family safe.

I will be in touch with you again soon.

God bless,



Mr D Redfern
Headteacher

