



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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20th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with deep sadness that I write to tell you that our much-loved Learning Support Assistant Mrs Andrada Short passed away yesterday, Monday 19th May.

Mrs Short was taken ill immediately after giving birth and died very suddenly. Her baby girl is doing well. Mrs Short has been a valued friend and colleague at our school for many years and was married to Mr Short, a long standing and valued teacher within our science faculty. Our thoughts are very much with him and his two young children. Anyone who knew Mrs Short will know what a kind, generous and cheerful person she was. She always made time for our pupils and showed huge compassion for them. We are all going to miss her dearly.

We have been sharing this terribly sad news with our pupils in assemblies this afternoon. Unfortunately with Years 11 and 13 on study leave we have not been able to see them personally to speak to them and I would very much appreciate your support in letting your own child know.

Children can respond in a range of ways to tragic news and we have emphasised the importance of talking about their thoughts and feelings today and we suggest that you follow this up at home too. The school has ensured that specialist pastoral staff are available to support students with the news and we will provide ongoing help for any students who are seriously affected. We are using our school Library as a space for this for the rest of this week. Pupils can go there throughout the day if they feel the need. If there is any information you need to share which may make your child particularly vulnerable in this situation then please contact their Head of Year. I have shared some links below for support agencies that I would encourage you to use.

In time we will find ways to commemorate and celebrate the life of Mrs Short. If you or your child wish to leave floral tributes then they can be placed on the bench outside the school Reception. This is accessible to visitors without the need to enter the school itself, so please feel free to place your tributes there at any time this week and by the end of this Friday 23rd May. We would ask that you remove any cellophane or plastic wrapping before leaving them. We will also be giving pupils the opportunity to write messages of condolence which in time we can pass on to Mr Short and his family.

I know, as parents and carers, you will join me in extending our sincere condolences to Mr Short and his family. I would ask that you refrain from discussion of this matter on social media as a matter of respect.

It is a very sad moment for the school and wider community and I thank you in advance for your



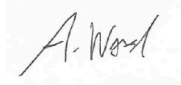
"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"



sensitivity and support at this difficult time. Those who have had the pleasure to know Mrs Short will I know be feeling both shocked and terribly sad. We are a very strong school community and I am sure that everyone will be supportive of each other.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything further you feel we can do to help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Wood', on a light-colored background.

Mr A Wood
Headteacher

Please follow these links for sources of support:

Rainbows Bereavement support- [Home - Rainbows Bereavement Support GB \(rainbowsgb.org\)](https://rainbowsgb.org/)

Winston's Wish - [Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children \(winstonswish.org\)](https://winstonswish.org/)

Cruse Trust - [Home - Cruse Bereavement Support](https://www.cruse.org.uk/)

Hope again - [Hope Again](https://hopeagain.org.uk/) (this specifically supports those who may be taking exams)