



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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1st July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know that the funeral of Mrs Short took place this morning at Waltham Abbey Church. It was a sad, beautiful service. We were able to celebrate her life and share memories of what a special woman she was. In times of tragedy it can be hard to find words of comfort, but the Tribute, written by her husband Mr Short, and the Homily, delivered by the Venerable Dr Jonathan Smith managed to commemorate a life well lived and a woman loved by many.

Mrs Short was a very special person and is much missed here at school. She and her family remain very much in our thoughts and prayers. As Mr Short expressed so well in his Tribute, she would have wanted to give the following message to her own children and to the world: 'be strong, be kind and leave room in your heart for joy'.

I want to thank you once again for your kind messages of support. Mrs Short's family are asking for donations to be made to Great Ormond Street Hospital in her name, and you can do this through the funeral directors at www.drobinson.co.uk. So many of you have been wonderfully generous in also making donations to Mr Short and his family and he has asked me to pass on his heartfelt thanks for your kindness. It is not too late to make a donation should you wish to and you can use our WisePay page for this [Bishops Hatfield Girls School](http://www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk).

Today has been a difficult day for many of us here at Bishop's. It has also once again shown what a kind and supportive community we have here. Staff have volunteered to cover for colleagues so that they could attend the service, ex-members of staff who left us many years ago were there to join the service this morning and pupils have shown great sensitivity towards staff and their peers. Whilst I feel sad today, I also feel proud to be part of such a kind group of people.

I will finish by sharing the following poem that was read at the service this morning.

She is Gone

*You can shed tears that she is gone,
Or you can smile because she has lived*

*You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left*

"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"



*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared*

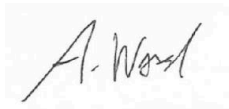
*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday*

*You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

David Harkins

With best wishes to you and your families,

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

Mr Wood
Headteacher