



16th November 2021

Dear Colleague,

Many of you will have seen an article in the local press this morning regarding the inquest into John Farrell's death. We have also been approached for comment from the national press. It is important that we focus on John's contribution to Bishop Walsh and our academy, rather than on recent circumstances mentioned in this article, out of respect for him and his family. As a result, the following statement, based on the tribute sent to staff earlier this term has been issued today which may appear in the press in the coming days. This will also be sent to parents today and published on websites at Bishop Walsh and the MAC.

Following the recent coroner's report into the death of our former much loved and valued colleague, John Farrell, we are deeply saddened and remember him and his family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

John had a successful career as an inspirational teacher and had an influential impact on many of the students he taught, encouraging them to make the most of their God-given talents. As Principal at Bishop Walsh School, he continued to strengthen and enhance the reputation of the school in the local area. John was passionate about education and was a living example that we should 'Be not afraid' in doing what we believe is best for the young people in our care. This was especially evident by him being instrumental in establishing our successful Multi Academy as Catholic Senior Executive Leader. John left our multi academy to move on to other things in August 2020.

Although he was no longer part of our multi academy when he died, he will be sincerely missed by so many.



This photograph of John was taken at the first Multi-Academy Mass

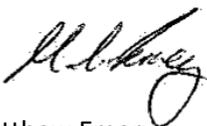
He managed to get all the children and staff from the schools together to celebrate the formation of the St John Paul II Multi Academy on the playground at Bishop Walsh School.

It was a proud moment for him and a memorable occasion for all involved.

John's funeral took place at Erdington Abbey on Friday 17th September 2021 and he was laid to rest in Oscott Cemetery, Birmingham.

*May he rest in peace.
Amen.*

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Emery
Catholic Senior Executive Leader

St. John Paul II Multi Academy

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