



WYCHWOOD

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Michèle Crawford RIP

We are very sad to share the news that Michèle Crawford, a former teacher at Wychwood, has passed away. Michèle was a huge support to me when I joined the school last September. We will be marking her incredible service to Wychwood next term and more details about this will follow shortly. I have asked Ms Bridget Sherlock to share a reflection.

It is with great sadness that we let you know that Michèle Crawford died peacefully in Sobell House hospice, after an extended, debilitating illness, on the evening of Monday 8th May 2023. Her husband, David, was with her. Michèle retired at the end of the Trinity Term 2009 after 38 years of service to Wychwood. As Deputy Head at Wychwood, she was responsible for pastoral care and SMSC, and her other roles included Head of Boarding, SENCo (now SEND) and Head of English. In her retirement her unstinting commitment to Wychwood continued. Michèle volunteered hundreds of hours to archiving and she was a Teaching and Learning governor. More recently, she served on the Charitable Board, and attended meetings up to April 2023 despite her ill health.

When we consider that she was appointed in 1971 as a young English teacher by the Head, Jinner Snodgrass (EMS), who in turn was appointed by the founder of the school, Miss Lee, we can appreciate the extent of our loss in a historical context. However, this does not touch on the personal loss of the very many privileged men and women lucky enough to have known the extent of the warmth and love of a committed, passionate teacher of English and literature and a devoted colleague, over her decades of service. In Michèle we have lost a wise mentor, a true advocate and matriarch of Wychwood, and most poignantly, a dear, dear friend. May her soul rest in peace.

In December, we were delighted to be able to name the Crawford Rooms in Michèle's honour and even more pleased that she could be with us in person to do this. We hope that this is just one small way in which her name will continue to be entwined in the fabric of Wychwood and to recognise the unwavering service Michèle has given to the school. We know that one of the things Michèle loved to hear was the word Crawford ringing out throughout the school every day as we work, meet, eat and socialise in the Crawford Rooms.

With deepest sympathy

Mrs Jane Evans
Head

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