

14 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

On 29 April I wrote to you all to share some difficult news about Mr Hunter. I am very sorry to now have to inform you that, sadly, Mr Hunter died on Wednesday following his short battle against an aggressive form of cancer. You may have seen in the local press that Mr Hunter became a father on Monday, following the birth of his daughter, Harper May Hunter. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

Mr Hunter was a valued member of the John Willmott School community. He attended John Willmott as a child and returned to teach PE, before becoming a key member of the pastoral team. As Head of Year 7 every student who entered our school was cared for by him during their first year in school. Students will have happy memories of Mr Hunter from their Year 7 residential at Whitemoor Lakes, where he always took to the decks as 'DJ Hunter' on the final evening. In his role as a PE teacher and football coach, he inspired and motivated countless students to pursue sport at a high level.

There is a saying that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops" Mr Hunter has touched the lives of thousands and his influence reaches far and wide. Since the news of Mr Hunter's illness has been shared, there have been innumerable tributes paid to him. These tributes are a true testament to the lasting impact that he has had on our students, their families, our staff and the wider community of Sutton Coldfield. He will be greatly missed by us all.

I appreciate that the unusual national circumstances at this time make it very difficult for us to support our students in the normal way. For pupils who may need some additional help in dealing with this news, the school can direct you to a range of external support networks and resources that offer help, including Kooth at ([www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) an online mental health platform) and Pause at ([askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk)). Other support agencies are listed on the school website under the COVID-19 banner. If you have any other concerns please email [enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk) and an appropriate member of staff will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

In time we will come together as a school to ensure that there is a suitable and lasting memorial that recognises the contribution that Mr Hunter made to our school and the local community. May he now rest in peace.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs T Peters**  
**Headteacher**