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Company Number: 09484306

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Dear Parents and Carers,

**Chris Youlden**

I am sorry to have to write to you today with such sad news, but I wanted to let you know about the very sad loss of one of our truly inspirational leaders, who has been an integral part of our TEACH schools. I was very sadly informed by his beloved wife, Carol, today, that last week, suddenly and unexpectedly, Chris Youlden died.

There are times in your life when you meet someone who truly makes such a difference to yours, and so many others' lives. Chris was one of those men. Chris was a governor at the Canford Heath schools for a number of years, eventually taking over as the Chair of Governors. He supported school leaders in the journey to helping Canford Heath Middle School (as it was then) out of Special Measures, and his tireless and dedicated work for the schools did not stop there.

When the four schools started discussing forming a multi-academy Trust, ten years ago, Chris was one of the driving forces for this development and became one of the founding fathers of TEACH. He took on the difficult task of Chair of Trustees for the new Trust-wide governing board and led it diligently, passionately and fairly. This was all on top of being a simply fantastic grandfather to his lovely grandchildren, who also went to these schools. We owe a huge amount of where we are today to the kindness and selflessness of this wonderful man.

Kind, passionate, dedicated and socially-conscious - he was one in a million. He was very, very much loved and his impact on our school community will be felt for decades to come. If you ever knew or met him, you would have felt this in bucketloads.

I know I speak for all the staff, parents, carers and children when I send all our love and best wishes to his lovely wife, Carol, and her family, and I hope that we can all take a moment (or longer) to summon up our heartfelt appreciation for this incredible human being. He is such a loss to our community.

With all my best wishes

Kate Carter  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Educational Alliance of Canford Heath (TEACH Poole)



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