



In all things faithful

18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I write to tell you of the passing of our Chair of Governors and lifelong friend of St Damian's, Mrs Elizabeth Jones MBE, known fondly to the St Damian's community as 'Betty'.

Betty's stewardship and leadership were instrumental in ensuring that our vision was realised, and that vision was that we are an outstanding Catholic school. Betty has been a regular visitor to school, always attending a wide variety of events from visits from the Bishop to Celebration Evenings to staff training. The staff and I were very proud to have Betty as our Chair of Governors, a role she has held since 2011 right up to her passing. However, we were also blessed to have such a remarkable woman leading the school. Her values and faith were strong and always made decisions based on what was right for the school community. These decisions were not always easy but Betty, lived out her values in a calm, and stoic manner.

The St Damian's community has been privileged to be at her side when she was named 'National Governor of the Year' at a ceremony at the House of Lords in December 2021 and in 2022 when Mrs Jones was presented with her MBE at Windsor Castle by the Princess Royal. These, alongside the numerous accolades amassed over the years are a testament to her leadership.

Betty has been an integral part of St Damian's for many years, in her role as Business Manager and then as Chair of Governors, everything St Damian's is, is a result of her hard work and dedication. Her legacy, an outstanding catholic community, will always be remembered.

On a personal level, Betty was a great friend, a brilliant colleague and a wonderful role model who I admired greatly. I will really miss her and her words of wisdom.

Please include Betty's family in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Logue  
Headteacher

**St Damian's RC Science College**

Lees Road  
Ashton-under-Lyne  
OL6 8BH

**Tel:** 0161 330 5974

**Fax:** 0161 331 4744

**Email:** [admin@stdamians.co.uk](mailto:admin@stdamians.co.uk)

**Web:** <http://www.stdamians.co.uk/>

**Follow us on Twitter:** @StDamiansRCSC

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**Headteacher**

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

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