

Guy Dodd 13th August 1941 – 8th May 2020

Headmaster at LWC from 1982 – 1993.

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of former Headmaster Guy Dodd. Guy passed away last May and not surprisingly we were inundated with messages of condolence for Guy's widow Helen and their family. Here Sternian President Peter Booth remembers what a remarkable man he truly was.

Guy and Helen came from Cheltenham College to LWC. It was immediately clear that they endorsed the ethos of the school, based on the Lord Wandsworth Foundation and a sense of community. They worked tirelessly to support and develop that ethos. Guy presided over several major developments at the College, foremost of which was becoming a co-educational school. The process, in two phases, ran remarkably smoothly. There is little doubt that Guy chose the right time and the right process for this. The College also went from strength to strength in academic performance – never an academic hothouse but always enabling pupils to find the best in themselves. His time at the College saw a programme of building that encouraged the growth of numbers while at the same time reinforcing its financial strength. During his time at the College, he also had to deal with the impact of the Great Storm of 1987 when we lost all power for over a week – not easy when there are several hundred demanding young people who need to be cared for! His leadership ensured that the crisis was successfully managed.

Guy was a man of total integrity and earned the respect of colleagues and pupils alike. He was a wonderful head to work with and never betrayed his values. We both have so many reasons to be grateful for his support and firm but discreet direction, as do countless others. I will leave it to some of his former pupils, who have sent in a wave of tributes, to speak for his qualities as their headmaster. 'He was a very decent man and an excellent headmaster. He was capable of commanding respect without ever being domineering.' 'This was a gentleman who saw a simple 11-year-old and knew LWC would be able to do something with him and mould him into a young man. I know his support and dealings with my widowed mother made her worries for her one and only, a lot easier.' 'Always set a great example to his pupils and had such a fantastic memory for names and facts. Every time he used to greet parents and pupils, he seemed to be able to recall their entire family history, names of the whole family, where their siblings were studying or working, what their favourite hobbies and pastimes.' 'He was the epitome of a proper headmaster, that had the full respect of everyone. When he spoke, you listened. I remember having to go to his office to discuss organising a Sixth form function and explaining what a Lambada was. His face was a picture! He will be remembered with gratitude and affection.' Indeed, he will.

Long-standing residents of Long Sutton will be sad to hear that Guy Dodd, Headmaster of Lord Wandsworth College from 1982 to 1993, died earlier this month. In his time at the College, he and Helen threw themselves into the life of the village and ensured that relations between the two had never been closer. The village fete was held in the grounds of Shepwood House and Helen was a key figure in the Long Sutton WI. Indeed, new female members of the Lord Wandsworth College community, teachers, wives or even daughters, were entertained to tea soon after their arrival and 'encouraged' to join. At one stage, half the WI membership came from the College and Guy surpassed all talents when husbands entertained the ladies at a couple of WI Christmas parties.

Our sympathy goes to Helen, Janie, Angus and Tom, and their families at this incredibly difficult time.

Peter Booth