

Colleagues speak of an inspirational boss

WARM tributes to former Gordon Schools Rector John Swan have been paid by past colleagues.

Mr Swan (71) died last Thursday.

Members of his senior management team credit him with their success in securing headteacher and promoted posts.

Graham Ritchie, an assistant head recalled the very high professional standards expected of staff.

He said: "It became obvious very early that John would not accept work that was below the standard he expected of himself. I learned my trade from John and that stood me in good stead for the rest of my career.

"His integrity shone through everything that he did. He was a courageous defender of staff, pupils and of what he knew to be in the best interests of the school.

"John had a profound beneficial influence on a generation of pupils and also on their teachers. He always had a very clear idea of the path he wanted his school to follow, where the needs of its pupils came first.

"He was aware of the traditions of the school and knew that they were important to the development of the school and to the community but this did not compromise innovation.

"His phrase "the best of the old with the best of the new" absolutely reflected his educational philosophy.

"Pupils and school came before

any self-gain or reward, an outstanding boss, teacher, mentor and friend he will be missed by many."

Others reflected on his integrity, honesty, fairness and a respect for everyone.

Mr Swan was proud it was an inclusive school, they said, in which young people were well supported to learn and develop.

Courses and opportunities were provided that met the learning needs of all young people and he encouraged his colleagues to be at the forefront of educational development for the benefit of pupils.

The school was at the 'cutting edge' and staff were highly regarded and frequently offered promoted posts in other schools.

Colleagues all spoke of the fact Mr Swan knew the name of every pupil and took time to take an interest in them all, celebrating and acknowledging their achievements.

Another said Mr Swan's commitment to building positive relationships ensured a positive ethos of success. In addition to supporting pupils to achieve their very best, he developed leadership in staff, many of whom moved on to promoted posts or to become head teachers, inspired by his encouragement and leadership.

Across the board, his compassion, humanity and genuine interest in The Gordon Schools community will be sorely missed.

Rector was valued by FP group

PRESIDENT of the Former Pupils' Association said former rector John Swan's input was pivotal in setting up and maintaining the organisation's website.

Nora Morrison said his wisdom and support were very much valued.

"If the association was approached on historical matters relating to the school, John was an invaluable, keen researcher," she said.

"He was tireless in seeking out the information requested.

"He will be greatly missed by all members. He lived up to his commitment to make a very good school even better."