



A TRIBUTE TO A LEGENDARY TEACHER

James Porter sadly passed away on 31st July 2014, aged 58

James Porter came to Ripley Court, from Dane Court, on 1st September 1980, when Neville Dudgeon was Headmaster, and the School was very much known for Boarding. He taught many Subjects over the years, but came to specialise as Head of History. He was a highly regarded Form teacher, particularly of Crows' Nest (as the Scholarship Form was then known) and a very enthusiastic Head of Comanches for a decade. He became Deputy Head in 2001, a post which he continued with exemplary success under Andrew Gough, up to September 2010, when he decided to go back into the ranks, devoting even more time to his beloved History.

James will also be very fondly regarded as the indefatigable Coach of 1st Elevens in Football and Cricket. He himself represented Shrewsbury Town at Junior Level, and Worcestershire at County level respectively. His passion for Sport was duly transmitted to hundreds and hundreds of eager pupils, all of whom will remember him sitting imperturbably on his shooting stick at Square Leg, with, in the early years, the faintest whiff of smoke curled around his majestic beard. He also participated in many fixtures for the Courtiers, gaining many wickets with his off-breaks. He was instrumental in setting up the first ever Travelling Bunburys match in 1987, which featured many stars of field, music and screen and which has gone on to be a major charity playing all around the country.

But it will be his style of History teaching which will live longest in the memory, rich in anecdotes and mischievous in its story-telling, all delivered in those distinctively sonorous tones. His memory for people, places and dates was truly breath-taking.

Of all the teachers who have crossed the threshold of Ripley Court, it is James Porter who will always be asked after with the greatest of affection by innumerable former pupils and parents.

He will forever be remembered. A true Legend.