

ELMWOOD SCHOOL SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER DI CADMAN

You have to be very special to work in a Special School and there is certainly no one more special than Di ! Di has worked tirelessly for the good of the School and will be leaving a big void now that she has finally decided that it is time to put her feet up and look after herself for once.



Di began her time at Elmwood School when it opened in January 2008 having previously worked at Daw End School from March 1998 when she was initially employed as a night time supervisor in the residential department. When the department closed in 2006 her skills were put to good use when she joined the inclusion team as a teaching assistant. Sadly Daw End School closed in December 2007 but another chapter lay ahead for Di with eleven memorable years at Elmwood.

So many pupils have benefited from Di's warmth and kindness; she is always on the lookout for bits and pieces that they may want or need. Monday mornings have seen her arriving at school with bags of goodies that she has picked up whilst 'booting' on

Sunday morning. Not only has she provided material items to support our young people in School she has also supported them during difficult times emotionally; even going to Court in her own time to help a former Daw End pupil. This was recognised back in 2011 when the Year 7 pupils did their own special service dedicated to Di when they changed the words to the song 'You are amazing just the way you are' to 'Di you are amazing the way you are'; a lovely moving tribute by the pupils involved.



Di has also ensured that the School looks welcoming with the plants that she has potted up and tended to at the front school — this year's display is looking particularly stunning. In addition of the bench that she has purchased for the School has made a lovely welcome touch to the front main entrance and is already being enjoyed by pupils and staff.



Over the year she has been ribbed about her short stature and taken it in good stead—even receiving a pair of specially made shoes which she proudly exhibited for all to see.



Di's kindness does not rest solely with pupils and is shared amongst staff too. One young male teacher stating that she took him under her wing when he started at the School and had been like a mom looking out for him ever since.

Until recently Di has been the School's medical teaching assistant making sure that pupils were popped by the right people at the right time —no mean feat! She has also supported the many School Paediatricians over the years during their visits to the School and this has been recognised by them with thank you letters and messages of appreciation that we have received.



Di can always be relied on for capturing those special moments with pupils and therefore she is not very often in front of the lens as she is usually the one taking the pictures! Her amazing memory will be greatly missed. You could always rely on Di for knowing not only the child but also their family information as we

We will be left with lots of lovely memories of happy times spent working with Di, who was always game for a laugh and ready to join in and —her energy and enthusiasm clear to see. The wind ups and banter shared between Di and Mr Cross have produced many a smile including her submitting a letter of her intent to retire a year in advance just to raise his hopes up as she put it! We won't even mention technology —how many emails have you got in your inbox Di?



Di has been a true inspiration and Elmwood's door will always be open for Di to pop in — she will remain a honorary staff member.

THANK YOU DI—YOU ARE A TRUE STAR