

The Sweyne Park Times

Your weekly link with the school
7th July 2006



Science



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



International
School Award
2005-2006



Kate Spiller
Headteacher
B.Ed., M.A.
23.7.52 - 29.6.06



Kate Spiller began her teaching career by gaining her initial degree at Goldsmiths College, London, later qualifying for an M.A. in Curriculum Studies from the London Institute of Education. She taught in a number of Essex schools, where her immense talents were quickly recognised by everyone with whom she worked. In 1996 she was appointed as Headteacher Designate, with the brief of amalgamating the Sweyne and Park schools. Through her passion for developing and nurturing people's talents, as well as her outstanding leadership skills, Kate was able to transform the newly created Sweyne Park School into a school which HMI described in 2002 as 'outstandingly successful'. Her passion for staff training will certainly be one of her enduring legacies and, as well as being a tutor for aspiring new headteachers, Kate regularly addressed national conferences, with many of her ideas being published.


















Pupils, parents, staff and governors alike have often remarked on Kate's amazing ability to combine her inspirational vision for education with 'the human touch', and her intellect, drive and compassion have been a shining light to us all. The school ethos she created, based on the key concepts of respect and celebrating success, always guided her every decision. Somehow, even in a school with over 1300 pupils, Kate always treated every pupil as an individual and on her first day she was determined to remember every single pupil's name!

One of our most abiding memories of Kate will be her total commitment to ensuring equality for all, and this is reflected in the school's mission statement of 'securing pupil success'. As a highly successful female headteacher she ran numerous courses both regionally and nationally for women aspiring to leadership positions within education. Most recently she set up our link with the Kisarika School in Tanzania. As a result of this initiative and the fund-raising schemes she organised, pupils who would normally struggle to receive an education due to terrible poverty now have a chance to make something of their lives.

As well as leading a dynamic and vibrant school, Kate was very happily married, loving to spend her free time with family. She was dedicated to her two daughters, of whom she was immensely proud, and despite her busy schedule she also always found time to spend with friends. Kate loved to travel and visit new places, was passionate about the arts, especially literature, and was an avid theatre-goer.

We will miss Kate greatly and all the fond memories we have will echo for many years to come.

Some Notable Achievements

1996		Headteacher Designate
1997 (Sept.)		Amalgamation of Sweyne & Park schools
1999	 INVESTOR IN PEOPLE	Investors in People
		Links established with Teacher Training providers, including : Cambridge University
	 INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF LONDON <i>Partnership for Excellence</i>	Institute of Education, London
2000		Schools' Curriculum Award
		International School Award
		School GCSE results jump from 48% to 62%
2001		Excellent OFSTED report (leadership & management 'outstanding')
2002		HMI 'Outstandingly Successful School'
	 INVESTOR IN PEOPLE Outstanding Practice	Investors in People - Outstanding Practice Award
2003		Specialist Science School
		DFES Training School
		Artsmark Silver Award
2004		Leading Edge School
		International School Status
		National College of School Leadership Development Programme
2005		Investors in Excellence Award (We were the first school in the country to gain this award).

The memorial service for Kate Spiller will be on Wednesday 19th July, when the school will be closed as a mark of respect.

From Monday a book of condolence will be opened in the Parents' Meeting Room for parents & visitors and a book for pupils will be available in the Library.