



Gosfield School

Established 1929

Knowing every child
Nurturing potential

Sunday 2nd June 2024

Dear parents and colleagues

We are hugely saddened to have to write to you to share some shocking and deeply upsetting news received last Friday.

Peter Sakal, our Chairman of Governors for 22 years and a School Governor for 33 years, passed away suddenly last week. The family has asked for privacy and understanding at this time. If you would like to express your condolences, please contact the Principal's Executive Assistant Mrs Sara Bowles [sara.bowles@gosfieldschool.org.uk] who will convey all messages to the family.

Peter was an outstanding and utterly devoted Chairman of Governors whose generosity and vision have steered Gosfield through both highly successful and challenging times. He has led his team of Governors in their work to support the Principal, Staff and the entire Gosfield community to achieve the success for the school we experience today. As such he has been one of four or five key figures in the history of Gosfield to have served with such dedication and commitment over so many years.

All of his children attended Gosfield, a link which provided the original spur to his becoming a Governor. He has been inspired to devote an immense amount of time, for many years alongside a busy job as Director of his own large company, in order to develop and expand the educational programme at Gosfield. His vision and support for the school have been evident for all to see. His most recent contribution has been the inspiration, the commitment and drive to build the Performing Arts Centre. The performances of this week's production of *High School Musical*, which Peter was looking forward to attending, will be dedicated to his memory. For Peter his support for Gosfield has been a vocation.

No words will be able to describe the sense of loss and sadness that so many in our community will feel. Our thoughts are with his family at this time. We feel grateful and privileged to have had the opportunity to work closely with Peter and under his guidance. We have lost a true friend.

Jon Corral, Vice Chairman of Governors, will be acting Chairman of Governors.

Jon Corral – Vice Chairman of Governors
Rod Jackson - Principal

Gosfield School Limited

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Charity Number: 310871





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A message from his family

Peter Sakal 1961-2024

It's with a very heavy heart that we have to announce the passing of our dearest Peter Sakal. A beloved dad, partner, grandfather, brother and friend; we will always remember him for his generosity and selflessness. He was an incredibly caring man whose zest for life shone through in everything he did. Peter was a hard-working successful entrepreneur, who established GFM over 30 years ago and was the driving force behind his local Colchester businesses. His devotion to the education and development of children was evident by his 22 years tenure as Chair of Governors at Gosfield School. He felt privileged to be a part of the school and it always held a special place in his heart. We can't express in words how sad we are to lose such an inspiring man.



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