

June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Many of you have been asking how Mrs Coster is and I'm now able to give you an update. As you will be aware, she became ill with COVID 19 in March but let us all know that she was recovering. Unfortunately, the illness returned and she spent some time in a coma in hospital. She is still in hospital but I spoke to her on Friday and she wanted me to share the following information with our Henlow Academy Community:

Mrs Coster has suffered some life changing consequences including the amputation of her lower legs and her hands. She is herself - a point she repeated to me, "I am still the same person." It won't surprise you to hear that she is bravely facing up to this situation and already making plans to return to her charity sewing projects which have raised so much money for Watoto.

Mrs Coster would love to receive cards and messages as she begins a period of rehabilitation. It is her birthday in the coming days and I know many of you will wish to recognise this too. If you wish to email your messages, please send them to wishes@henlowacademy.org.uk. Mrs Coster won't be able to reply individually but she will continue to keep in touch via myself and I will update you. If you wish to donate to either ICU at Bedford Hospital or Watoto the links to do this are on the school website at http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/mrs_coster/488182

As a staff we have been deeply affected by this news and have shed many a tear. We have contacted the parents of children in 5CC via telephone this morning in order to guide their conversations with her young tutees. Many pupils will know her well and will all be contacted during this week by their teachers in order to have the opportunity to talk through this news.

I know our community will respond with warmth and we must take heart in the fact that the Intensive Care Unit at Bedford Hospital has saved her life.

Yours

Caren Earp