



# BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL and PRIESTLEY HOUSE

## SUMMER TERM 2007 NEWSLETTER



### PETER WILBY

With great sadness we have to record the very sudden and tragic death of Peter Wilby, a member of staff for 33 years. Peter Wilby was born in 1951 in Huddersfield. He graduated from Hull University with a B.A. (Hons) in Modern Languages and after his P.G.C.E., the vast majority of Peter's career was spent teaching at Batley Grammar School, almost 33 years in total. Peter taught French to pupils of all ages, together, on occasions, with a little Music, English and Religious Studies. He was a keen and determined teacher. Peter certainly knew his stuff and was academically at ease with pupils of all ages. Peter became an officer in the RAF section of the CCF in 1975, ran the section and then took over as Officer Commanding the contingent, a post he held for 30 years. Peter achieved the rank of Wing Commander.



As a younger man, Peter coached a school football team. He was a keen and demanding leader, bringing out the best in his teams. Since 2001, Peter has been Careers Master and has expanded the work of the Careers Service in school. For many years, Peter ran School Camp, together with a loyal band of staff, wives and families. Outside the classroom, Peter's great love was CCF. He was hugely well organised and extremely determined. The success of the CCF for 30 years has been down to his drive and commitment, as well as to his skill. Many serving members of the armed forces owe the direction of their professional lives to Peter Wilby. The recent Annual Inspection saw the inspecting officer give an unprecedented public commendation to all gathered as to the excellence of what he had seen – a fitting tribute to Peter's work over very many years. Outside school, Peter was secretary to the Huddersfield Choral Society Youth Choir. He was a singing member of the Huddersfield Choral Society for over 25 years, as well as singing in other choral ensembles around West Yorkshire. There can be no doubt that Peter was looking forward to retirement, he had so many plans of how he would live the next part of his life. It is a double tragedy that he will never do so. Life was taken from Peter 30 years too early; he had such a lot of living still to do. He will not be here with us in the flesh again, but he will live with us in our thoughts and prayers, in our memories of him as a man, a friend, a colleague, a leader, a teacher. May he now know that peace which the world cannot give.