**In Gratitude to Our Kathy Evans**

**by Lynn Gazal**

SEBDA'S Kathy Evans lost her battle with cancer in October 2024. Kathy was our warm, inclusive, and remarkably positive friend and colleague. She strove to make this world a better place, and I believe she continues to do so with the many ripples she created. It is easy to see why Kathy was drawn to SEBDA. Kathy embodied inclusivity. She aspired to understand and honour the whole child. She was passionate about advocating for and eliciting the best from every young person. In fact, from every single person. Perhaps the pinnacle of Kathy's contribution to SEBDA was her vision and her role in delivering the outstanding SEBDA international conference “Global Solutions to Working with Vulnerable Children and Young People”. The aspiration to deliver such a conference had been inscribed on her 5 year plan. after her terminal prognosis. It was to be her last major act of service for SEBDA. Marguerite and Kathy made a formidable conference team. Kathy’s creativity and pragmatism drove proceedings. Marguerite's excellent planning and organisational skills made it happen. The preparation and delivery were seamless. The conference was a resounding success; warm, inclusive, international, and full of insight and learning! Kathy spent her last years in service to others, making her difference wherever she could. On a personal note, she encouraged me to develop my writing and inspired me to carry out more research. Kathy had that ability to inspire the soul. Perhaps this gift is a remnant of her Welsh heritage and values. Ysbrydoli is the welsh word for 'inspire'. Ysbryd means spirit. Kathy touched the spirit and elevated the soul. Thanks to Kathy's inspiration, I presented at the SEBDA International conference and the ENSEC 2024 Crete conference “Social Emotional Learning for Lifetime Achievement”. Kathy also encouraged me to co-author a chapter in a book with her: “Cyberbullying and Online Harms”, edited by Helen Cowie and Carrie Anne-Myers. Our chapter was called “Interventions to challenge cyberbullying and online harassment”. Kathy asked me to develop this with her for a symposium, and we were due to present this in Crete, before she became really unwell. Kathy regularly volunteered to meet a group of us to get our presentations ready for ENSEC 2024 conference. One such was Tambai from Sierra Leone. Kathy went well out of, way for us. When Kathy wasn't going to be able to join us at the ENSEC conference, I was deeply saddened and conflicted about what to do for the best. However, Kathy was determined for us all to go. Even from her hospital bed, her altruism was exceptional. We had important work to do and she wanted us to do it! Dear Kathy, we know you would want the show to go on without you, but I carry with me all the important lessons I learned from you and will carry on the good work we started. Heartfelt thanks. (Lynn Gazal)