

HT Update Friday 22/3/24

Dear pupils, parents/carers and staff,

I wrote to staff, parents, carers and pupils yesterday about the tragic and unexpected loss of one of our young people. My update this week focuses on how we are supporting our staff and pupils.

Many young people have been speaking to their teachers, Pastoral staff and our colleagues to access support. These colleagues from Quarriers, Educational Psychology, SBC Quality Improvement, the School Nurse Team and local church ministers have worked very well with our staff and young people. Our staff are supporting each other well and also accessing other supports.

There are formal procedures to follow around communication in these circumstances and we have been in contact with the family throughout. After consultation with the family, we went ahead with our concert as a dedication and because it was a chance for people to be together. It was a wonderful occasion. On Wednesday we shared this news at a staff meeting, yesterday we had an assembly for S5 followed by assemblies for the other year groups today. The format of the assemblies has been input from Mrs Moretta and me along with Quarriers.

Our messages were that we will all react to this in different ways and it is OK to feel how you feel - we might not all feel the same. We shared our own feelings and emotions and spoke about how we all have connections with people who go to the same school because we are part of a community. We talked about the importance of compassion - a school value - and how we need to look after each other. We talked about the significant impact of this on staff who all care for all of their young people, and on parents and carers who will also be affected personally.

Our young people showed how they are our greatest asset to our school at the assemblies and at the end they were allowed to stay and chat to staff, to each other or go back to class or access the quiet room. We also talked about the fact that social media can be very negative at this time, and impressed upon the young people to avoid and report anything that they feel is inappropriate. The school is following up on these issues.

Please see below details of other services:-

Kooth

<https://www.kooth.com/> (available for young people aged 10-18)

Togetherall

<https://togetherall.com/en-gb/> (Togetherall is available for anyone aged 16+ and can therefore also be used by parents)

Young Minds

[YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)

Samaritans

[Samaritans](#)

Childline

[Childline | Childline](#)

Cruse

[Home - Cruse Bereavement Support](#)

Thank you to everyone for their support.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Ryalls

Kevin Ryalls
Headteacher