

30th October 2017

Dear Parent / Guardians,

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that one of our student body, Brandon Warren, took his own life on Monday 23rd October. Brandon was a wonderful student and dear friend to many, he will be remembered as a hardworking and amiable young man and will be hugely missed within our school community, particularly amongst his close friends in year 10.

As this tragedy happened during the half term holiday, I made the difficult decision to not inform staff and students until our return, ensuring that we could offer everyone the appropriate support to help them through the grieving period.

With the permission of Brandon's mother, all of our student body were informed of his death during assembly this morning. Students then spent the rest of the first period with their form tutor to discuss things further and to ask questions that they may have. All students have been given initial advice to guide them through the grieving process and we are now ensuring that students have access to appropriate professionals and counsellors if they feel the need to discuss this tragedy further.

As I am sure you will be aware, the death of a student will have significant impact on our community and it will take time for staff and students to come to terms with this news. Once a decision has been made regarding funeral arrangements we will decide how best we can remember Brandon as a friend and student within the academy, details of which I will share with you all in due course.

It is possible that your son/daughter may have some feelings that they may like to discuss with you. You can help them by taking time to listen and encouraging them to express their feelings. These conversations may be difficult for everyone concerned but it is important to give truthful information that is appropriate to their age. Should you need any further support we have provided some guidance on the school website.

If you would like any advice or support you may contact the school and we will do everything we can to offer help.

Kind regards

Jamie MacLean

Principal.