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Thursday 14 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with deep sadness and regret that I write to inform you about the tragic death yesterday of one of our students, Jethro Middleton in Y8. Our most heartfelt condolences and thoughts are with Jethro's family. I would ask that their privacy is respected at this incredibly difficult time, and that we avoid rumour and speculation surrounding the circumstances of Jethro's sudden death.

This devastating loss will raise many emotions, concerns, and questions for our entire school community, not least of course our students. I want to reassure you that support and guidance is available to help. Our safeguarding team have provided emergency support on-site today for students who were aware of the situation last night and particularly affected. We are ensuring that appropriate support is available for any students experiencing emotional distress at this time, so please do let us know if your child is in need of any additional support.

Many of our students, and indeed staff, will experience strong feelings, feelings such as anger, confusion, and profound sadness. We encourage our students and staff to be open with their feelings and share their memories. We will speak with students on their return to College after the Easter break, as it is important that they hear directly from members of staff who can support and comfort them. Our staff will try to answer any questions our students have, but you may also of course wish to talk to your child about their feelings. In addition to our safeguarding team, and wider staff body, we have solicited the support of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents, and staff at difficult times such as this. We will also have counsellors available for any student who may need or want support, and an Educational Psychologist will be available. We will also arrange for a book of condolences for students, parents, and staff to sign and in due course will plan a fitting memorial.

If you would like additional information or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. The following services provide useful information and support should you need it:

- Support for children, young people and parents: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- Professional therapeutic support for children, young people and parents: [jeremiahsjourney.org.uk](http://jeremiahsjourney.org.uk)
- Supporting bereaved children: [www.winstonswish.org](http://www.winstonswish.org)
- Supporting bereaved children: [www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org)
- Mental health text support, text 'shout' to 85258: <https://giveusashout.org>
- NHS talking therapy service for people over 18: [www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk](http://www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk)

Sincerely,

Craig Griffiths (Principal).