



27/4/20

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am writing to share the incredibly sad news that Adam Barry (Year 10 student) died this weekend following a road traffic incident. All of our thoughts and condolences are with Adam's family and friends at this time.

I have written directly to all Year 10 students via Google Classroom today and signposted the support that is available to them both through school and beyond school at this difficult time. I have also started a conversation with them about how we will celebrate Adam's life across time.

I have taken advice from the Educational Psychology Service about the best way to help our students understand what has happened, and to support them at this difficult time. Your son or daughter may feel sad and they may well get upset. This is a normal reaction and they are helped by your understanding and comfort. On the other hand, everyone responds to events differently and your child may not react like this – this is also fine, just allow your child to react in their own way.

If you choose to talk to your child, the school's Educational Psychologist has offered the following advice about the best way to talk to children about bereavement:

If you talk to your child about Adam's death, it is important to:

- Remain calm, it is helpful for young people to see that adults are in control
- Share your feelings with your child at an appropriate level, it is ok to show that you are sad or upset about what has happened
- Tell them what has happened truthfully, at a level young people can understand, but do not give them details they do not need to know or which may frighten them
- Avoid euphemisms such as 'passed away', 'lost', 'gone to sleep' etc as these can confuse young people and create further difficulties, it is better to use the word 'died'
- Say 'I don't know' if they ask a question you do not know the answer to
- Keep everything else as normal as possible

I hope you find this information helpful, and feel able to address any questions your child may have with regard to Adam's death. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns about your child's response to this news. I have asked Year 10 students to use our safeguarding e-mail if they need further support so please use the same e-mail address in this instance:

safeguarding@friesland.derbyshire.sch.uk

I will update you further in due course.

Yours sincerely

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