

Hawley Hall High School

Carr Lane, Wigan WN3 5NY | T: 01942 204640

E: admin@hhhs.net | W: www.hhhs.net

Headteacher: Mr M. Klinck



'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding'. (Ofsted)

Hawley Hall High School Monday 5th December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

We were so sorry to hear yesterday of the death of McKenzie, a year 11 student who attended our school. McKenzie was a much loved and valued member of our school community who will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.

Today the students in McKenzie's classes and Year 11 have been sensitively told of the sad news by staff and I have communicated this to the students in other year groups. School have acted on advice from the Local Authority regarding talking with young people about death. The students have been informed that it is rare for young people to die. When someone dies, their family and friends experience a number of different feelings, including shock, sadness, anger and confusion. The students have been reassured that these feelings are all normal, and it is typical to move between these different feelings during the grief process.

If you notice some changes in your child's behaviour, such as a loss of appetite or difficulties in sleeping and engaging in typical routines or activities they have previously enjoyed. Please encourage your child to speak to trusted adults and friends about their feelings. Staff in school will try to answer any questions that the young people may have in an open and factual way. You can further support your child at home by answering their questions in an honest way. If you do not know the answer to a question, that is ok, tell them that you do not know the answer, but can work together to explore the question.

The Mezzanine, canteen and A Block classrooms have been made available for students to access, should they need additional support or some quiet time to reflect on their loss in school. Our mentor team, senior leaders and school counsellor have also been available throughout the day to speak to any student, who has needed additional support. We will continue to do this in the coming days, working in partnership with other services. However, in the first instance, support will always be provided by adults that the students know and trust, as recommended by research evidence. If you feel your child is particularly vulnerable or has a history of bereavement, we may be unaware of please get in touch with their Head of Year in the first instance so we can monitor their needs and offer additional support if appropriate.

It is also important that young people know that there is a range of people they can talk to outside of their home and school, should they wish to talk about their feelings or worries. We have discussed this again today but please find below further support available:

- [Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children \(winstonswish.org\)](http://winstonswish.org)
- Their GP/ CAMHS
- www.Kooth.com a free of charge online counselling service
- ChildLine (0800 1111)
- Samaritans (116 123)
- Papyrus HopelineUK (0800 068 4141)
- www.Youngminds.org.uk

- <https://hhhs.net/safeguarding/> - External support links
- School mentors
- School based counsellor
- Senior Leadership Team
- Head of Year
- Form Tutor

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with staff in school if you have any questions or concerns at this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr. M Klinck
Headteacher

