

9th February 2017

Dear SNS student,

I am writing to give you some updates and information following the recent sad events.

Firstly, I want to thank you for the ongoing support so many students have shown over the last weeks. We have been very touched by the care and kindness you have shown each other. Well done.

I know you will be conscious that this has been a difficult time for our Year 11 students. I do want to let all of you know that the school has been putting in place additional support for all Year 11 students in terms of counselling, support and wellbeing structures. The students, through the year representatives and the citizenship group, have also been putting forward ideas for support which we are taking forward together.

We are aware of the impact that the events may have on all of you, not just Year 11 students. I said earlier this term that we are all affected differently and at different times by grief. I want you to confirm that we have for the rest of this academic year an additional counsellor in school. You can access confidential counselling on request – by speaking to any adult in school, by using the red boxes, by making a report on the online system (www.thesharpsystem.com), or by dropping into D04 at break, lunch or after school. You can also use these systems if you are worried about a friend and want to refer them. Of course, students can always speak to any adult in school if they have anything concerning them. There are staff in school over half term also.

As we look ahead we are keen to make sure our school has even stronger provision to positively promote wellbeing for all of you. We want to make sure that all of you are really well educated to deal positively with your future - and that you are all most able and willing to help others around you. We think we do many aspects of this already, but we aim to have wellbeing as an even higher priority. These developments will be taken forward very much in consultation with you: you have the key role in your own wellbeing – along with your parents/carers.

Some of the initiatives students have asked for, which you will see happen over the coming months, are quiet playground spaces, additional information about particular health issues and student listeners. If you want to know more about mental wellbeing a helpful website we recommend is:

[http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for children young people](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for_children_young_people).

I hope the above is helpful. Please do come and talk to me, or email me, if you have any questions or suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Gammon, Headteacher

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