

5th September 2023

Dear Families,

You may have heard about a serious road traffic accident on the A442 in the early hours of 5th September.

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you about the tragic death of Neve Cotgrave Hewitt, one of our year 8 pupils.

Another of our pupils has also been injured in the accident and is currently in a serious condition in hospital.

An accident of this nature and the loss of a young life is always deeply distressing, and it is particularly painful when it happens within our school community. We understand that this news may be overwhelming, and we want to assure you that we are here and will do everything we can to support our families and community, our students and our staff.

We will start the day on Wednesday with an assembly for our year 7 and year 11 pupils and will be doing the same for our year 8, 9 and 10 pupils when they return to school on Thursday. There will also be other opportunities throughout the day for pupils to be able to discuss their grief and support each other.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate parents in school. If you feel that your child would be better supported at home during this time, we will understand and fully respect your decision. However, we would welcome notification of this through the usual attendance line.

As a close-knit community, we want to ensure that we come together to support one another. Our school counsellor, student support team and other key staff will be available to offer assistance to students and staff members who may need support on Wednesday morning and throughout the coming days and weeks. We have also arranged for some extra counselling support from the council's educational psychology team.

We will be encouraging all students to talk, to let us know if they need additional support or if they see a friend struggling. Please let us know if there are ways in which we can support your child. We have also included some useful website links below and attached two leaflets with this email.

Once again, we extend our deepest sympathies to Neve's family and friends. Our thoughts are with them, and we thank you for respecting their privacy and wishes at this time.

We are also sending strength and thoughts to our pupil who is currently receiving the expert care they need in hospital. We wish them and their family the best.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are a strong community, and we will find strength in supporting one another as we navigate through this challenging time.



Ben Morgan
Acting Principal

Support links:

[Winston's Wish -giving hope to grieving children](http://winstonswish.org) (winstonswish.org)

[Get support -Cruse Bereavement Support](#)

[Grief and loss | Barnardo's](http://barnardos.org.uk) (barnardos.org.uk)

