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St Michael's
Catholic Academy



A Proud Member of
**BISHOP
HOGARTH**
Catholic Education Trust

Head Teacher: Clare Humble

4 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a deeply heavy heart that I write to you today to share with you the news that yesterday, St Michael's was saddened to learn of the death of one of our students in Year 11, Kaci Chambers.

Of course, the death of a young person can evoke an array of emotions for everyone, and we understand that this news will come as a big shock to our students, staff and parents and we want to reassure you that we are on hand to provide support. I would encourage you to let your child know that you have received this letter from school and that you are aware that one of our students has sadly died.

On our return to school, we have acquired additional counselling services to support our school community. Please remember that we also have our School Counsellor, Karen Stephenson, in school to provide further additional support as it is needed. During this holiday period, Year 11 students are invited to come into school and speak with a member of staff should they feel the need to.

We will continue to provide routine and continuity for all our students throughout the coming weeks. We will liaise with the family regarding our own memorial and will write again with more information in due course.

We would ask that you urge your children to be especially sensitive when using social media and to respect the family's privacy at this very sad time.

Professionals have given us the following advice and guidance for you when talking to your children and we hope this will be helpful:

- Children can react very differently to news of a death, some may appear to carry on almost without reacting, while others may cry and be completely overcome by their feelings. It is good to remember that there is no right or wrong way to grieve and no rule book to follow.
- Be honest when talking about the death and use sensitive but honest language.
- Try not to overwhelm your child with information or give more information than asked for.
- Children may when receiving news of a death, ask a few questions at a time to process the information. Children may need to ask the same questions repeatedly.
- Avoid speculating on anything related to the death, especially on social media.
- Reassure your children that you are available to listen and talk about the death.
- If your child is concerned and upset by how they are feeling it can help to know that other people often feel shocked, numb, angry, sad and overwhelmed by death.
- Encourage your child to ask for support in school if needed.
- If you are concerned about the emotional and mental health of a child or adult contact a professional. If not school, contact your GP.

At this time of great loss and sadness, our thoughts and prayers are with Kaci's family and with everyone in our wider school family.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Humble
Headteacher

Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with your God