

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will no doubt have heard by now about the very tragic deaths of three of our former students on Friday night.

This awful news has had a deep impact on many of our students, staff and members of the wider community.

Our deepest condolences go out to the families and friends of the victims as well as to all those who have been affected by their untimely passing.

We are aware of how grief and tragedy can impact children and young adults, particularly when there is a close personal connection and as such have put in place numerous measures to ensure our students are well supported today and in the coming week as they try to process and understand such devastating news.

We have been very well supported by the local authority, the Metropolitan Police and colleagues across many local schools. Consequently we have secured a number of additional counsellors who are managing the increased demand for emotional support.

The police have remained on site and have availed themselves to be used as needed for the next few days. This is to ensure we are well supported in safeguarding our students from any unwelcome press attention and to facilitate a different layer of support for those seeking reassurance.

We have provided students with a bereavement room today where staff are on hand to offer support, arrange counselling or enable space for the expression of grief. We also have publicised a reflection/prayer room that students can use at lunchtime if an outlet from the busy routine is needed.

We are coordinating a book of condolence for each of the three victims which will be passed on to the families once all those wishing to contribute have had the opportunity. This has been opened up to all students.

I would like to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of all of our students and their management of this very testing situation as they arrived to school today. They have behaved with maturity, sensitivity and respect. I would also like to thank the many members of our local community who have offered kind words of support to our staff and students at this very sad time.

Yours sincerely

Tash Moriarty
Headteacher