

11th November 2009

Dear Parents / Carers

It is with great sadness that I write to report the sudden death of Liam Woods in Year 10. It was confirmed by his GP that he contracted meningococcal (bacterial) meningitis and died yesterday. You will be aware that we sent a letter home yesterday as advised by the Health Protection Agency; you will find a copy of that letter on the website along with links to The Meningitis Trust (www.meningitis-trust.org) and the Meningitis Research Foundation (www.meningitis.org). I would reassure you that this is being treated as an isolated case and that social/school contacts are unlikely to be affected.

Many students heard of Liam's death last night via electronic communication and I told them formally this morning. Understandably staff and students are shocked and upset and we have accessed external specialist support for both staff and students. We have made the library available for students who need support and students have set up a memorial wall at the back of the school in memory of Liam. The papers from the wall together with a scrapbook of memories for students will be given to Liam's family.

If you have any concerns about provisions of support for your child please contact Mr Cross in the first instance who will arrange support for your child within school. If you have concerns about the welfare or emotional well being of your child you should contact your GP who can direct you to a range of additional Child and Family which includes counsellors.

The following services are also available:

Youth Talk is a free and confidential counselling service for 14 – 25 year olds based in St Albans. 01727 868684 www.youthtalk.org.uk

The St Albans Bereavement Network (SABN) is a charity which works with children and families. It can be contacted directly on 01727 841841 10.00 am – 4.00pm weekdays.

The Nexus Extended School Consortium offers a wide range of support services for child, parents and carers. These can be accessed via their website which can be found on our school website or by contacting Jo Maher, the Extended Schools Co-Coordinator, Care of Fleetville School on 01727 855134.

Under these sad circumstances the Year 10 Parents Information Evening on Work Experience scheduled for tonight will not take place.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Elizabeth Hitch
Head Teacher