

16 November 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

After a very difficult week for everybody at our school last week, I am very sorry to have to bring you news of the tragic and unexpected death of another of our students.

Vincenzo (Chinni) Vetere, a Year 12 student, was taken ill at home on Friday morning last week. Despite the best efforts of family members and the emergency services he later died in hospital. As yet, we do not have a confirmed cause of death but we understand that he was undergoing tests for a heart condition.

Although the cause of death has not yet been confirmed, the Health Protection Agency has advised the school that based on the information they have available at this point in time, no action is needed at Beaumont to protect public health. The two student deaths do not appear to be linked in any way.

A special Year 12 assembly was held for Vincenzo this morning which was beautifully led by his friends and a time of silence was observed by the whole school.

This is an incredibly hard time for both boys' families and close friends and we hold them in our thoughts and prayers. It is difficult for everyone who knew them and for staff who taught them. It is eight years since a student attending Beaumont has died so to have two deaths in one week is unbelievable and understandably the whole Beaumont community is in shock.

The Crisis Team who helped counsel staff and students over Liam's death have remained in school and will provide support to friends of Chinni. Please be assured we are doing everything we can to help our children through this very difficult time.

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 that works with children and families. It can be contacted directly on 01727 841841 10.00am – 4.00pm weekdays.

Child Death Helpline at Great Ormond Street Hospital – 0800 282 986.

The Nexus Extended School Consortium offers a wide range of support services for children, 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 Coordinator, care of Fleetville School on 01727 855134.

Finally, I would just like to thank you all for your support during this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Hitch (Mrs)
Headteacher