

8th June 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in the days following Max's passing and to commend our students on the sensitive way they have responded as a year group to this tragic news. It is a privilege to work with such caring young people who have demonstrated a true ministry to each other's needs at this most difficult time. As a school we endeavour to support pupils in need of bereavement counselling through both our pastoral provision and the specialist services provided within school.

I would like to ask for your continued support on behalf of Max's family with regards to the arrangements surrounding his funeral. It is to be held on Wednesday June 13th at 11.15 am at South Shields Crematorium, John Reid Road. This will undoubtedly be an extremely challenging day and whilst students are welcome to attend, the family have requested that a parent/carer accompanies any pupils who wish to pay their respects. I am mindful of the size of the venue and the potential for large numbers wishing to attend. I would respectfully request that Max's family are all seated before any of our students. To allow for pupils to be there in good time we shall be starting the GCSE Chemistry exam at 8.30am rather than 9am.

In order for all pupils to have the opportunity to remember Max we will also be holding services to give thanks for his life at school at 11am on Wednesday for year 11 students and again after school at 3.30pm. If parents would prefer to attend a service with their children, you are most welcome to do so.

As you may be aware there is a successful fundraising campaign organised by one of our students which is donating to the 'Young Lives' charity. This is at the request of Max's family, to continue to help young people who may need to access mental health care. The family have requested that part of the funds buy a new school bench for our prayer garden, in which students have found much comfort in this week. We will be supporting this initiative on Monday June 18th by holding a non-uniform day with a proposed donation of £1, we shall also be holding fundraising events on the day. Whilst most students in year 11 will have completed their GCSE examinations by this date we warmly invite them into school to celebrate Max's life with us in a way that we hope he would have approved.

I would be most grateful if you could indicate whether you intend to collect your child from school on Wednesday at 10.30 am to accompany them to the funeral, or if you wish to attend our school memorial service with your child instead. This will allow us to convey information to Max's family and to also fulfil safeguarding procedures. I would like to reassure parents that if their child does not want to attend either service, we will of course make provision for any children who may feel unable to attend. Once again on behalf of the staff and governors I would like to thank you for your support and for the exceptional response of the children whom we are so very proud to call our pupils.

Yours faithfully

Mr T B Tapping

I will be collecting and accompanying my child to the funeral service at 10.30 am
Wednesday 13th June 2018

I would like to attend the memorial service at St Wilfrid's at 11am on Wednesday 13th June 2018 with my child
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I would like to attend the memorial service at St Wilfrid's at 3.30 pm on Wednesday 13th June 2018 with my
child.....

Signed