

29 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was with great sadness that we heard two young people lost their lives in Bristol on Saturday evening. This morning we reflected on this sad and sudden loss on our doorstep and how our thoughts are very much with the boys' immediate family and friends at this difficult time.

We know many of our families reside in this community and will be affected by these traumatic events. We have spoken with students this morning in our morning broadcast and reminded students of our pastoral support. We have asked students to:

- talk to a trusted adult if they are worried or concerned;
- if they feel they have any information regarding Saturday's events to share this with the police;
- not share anything on social media.

We will continue to work with the safeguarding team in Bristol and North Somerset and ask that we all remain vigilant in our care for your children. If you are concerned about this event or any other related matter, please raise this with us as a priority. Guidance on how to talk to your child/children is provided below.

It is lost on none of us that such senseless violence ought not to be part of society in 2024. We will continue to educate and raise awareness of knife related crime and on Wednesday, Year 10 will be listening to Avon and Somerset Police talk to them about this very theme. We will reflect on these themes in the days and weeks ahead with all year groups.

Best wishes



**Justin Humphreys**  
**Headteacher**

### **General guidance for parents/carers when talking to their children about grief and loss:**

- Explain what happened and what it means using clear and age-appropriate language
- Give them space to ask questions
- Focus on listening and empathising
- Let them express whatever they're feeling

For some young people, the way in which the two teenagers died may be very difficult to take in and make sense of. It would be natural to have feelings of confusion, fear and anger when a homicide takes place in a community. By giving their children a space together to process their thoughts and feelings, from a curious and non-judgemental stance, parents/carers can support their children to come to terms with the tragic and shocking loss of life.

There are some organisations that provide specific guidance for parents/carers on supporting young people when there has been a violent death. These links may be useful to include:

Child Bereavement UK - [Supporting children and young people bereaved by murder or manslaughter](#)

Winston's Wish: [Supporting children and young people after a sudden, violent or traumatic death](#)

Leigh Fenton  
**School Counsellor**