



15th February 2023

Dear Families

I am sorry to email you during the school holiday however I have some important and very sad news to share with you. It has been a testing week for our community. You may have heard the news that a 16-year-old was stabbed in Chelmsford on Sunday night and later died in hospital. That boy was Andy Wood, a learner who left us last summer. Andy was a popular and well-liked learner at Honywood and his passing will undoubtedly affect many of us.

As a school and community, we offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to Andy's family at this difficult time. Whatever challenges we face we cannot begin to imagine how they must be feeling right now. For our part we will continue to be there to show caring, compassion, kindness and empathy and will be respectful of the family's privacy during this time. Every child is a valued part of our community and it is our absolute privilege to be a part of their lives, to serve them and to help shape their character and future selves. Children leave Honywood ready to take their next steps in the world and to have that legacy cut short is never an easy thing to overcome or comprehend.

Andy was certainly a happy and fun-loving young man who left his mark with so many of us. His loss will be felt in every corner of our community. Many current learners will have also known him and will be feeling a sense of loss too. I am sure you will share our sense of loss as well as fond memories of him that will carry his legacy forward. It is at times like this we often need a hug and a human connection. It is so important that we all display warmth and kindness to each other. Grief can manifest itself in many ways and can come from the most obvious as well as the most unlikely of places. At school we would like to provide reassurance that it is ok to react through an emotional response and we will be here to support our learners and community at this difficult time.

The death of any child is heart wrenching. For a child to be taken in circumstances such as Andy's will certainly make us question the unfairness of his passing. Should anyone feel that their child will need support when they return please contact us via cfrogley@honywoodschool.com

Kind regards

James Saunders
Headteacher