

STRATTON UPPER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Rob Watson
Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 8JB
Tel: 01767 220000 Fax: 01767 220002
office@stratton.beds.sch.uk



RHW/KW

20th March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

MAGNOLIA GARNER

As you are aware, last Friday we heard the tragic news that a former student, Magnolia Garner had passed away. Magnolia left Stratton in the Summer of 2017 so was well known to many students across our school.

Many students are likely to be upset with this traumatic event whether they were friends with Magnolia, sat with her in class or she was someone they just said hello to in the corridor. They are likely to respond in various different ways. Typical emotions could include anger, tearfulness or sadness. These are normal responses and are not always limited to those who knew her well. As parents, you can support your child through this difficult time by giving them the opportunity for them to talk about how they are feeling.

On Monday we were joined by professional support workers, skilled in guiding young people through this upsetting time. They have asked me to pass on the following advice for the many families whose children will seek comfort from home:

- Reassure your child that being upset is a normal response.
- Recognise they may show signs of shock or utter disbelief or even anger.
- Don't be afraid to talk about death.
- Don't push your child to talk if they aren't ready.
- Don't be surprised if your child appears not to grieve as everyone responds differently.

There are other signs that may give greater cause for concern:

- Withdrawal from friends and family.
- Sudden loss of weight.
- Sudden changes in behaviour/acting out of character.
- Increased risk taking behaviours, i.e. using drugs/alcohol.
- Loss of interest in activities.

Stratton Upper School is a 13 – 19 Academy governed by Stratton Education Trust

Registered office: **Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 8JB**

Registered in England Company Number : 7798627

The school will continue to have the support of the following organisations:

- Child Line
- Contact Papyrus.uk.org
- CHUMS Bereavement Service
- Samaritans.

Should you have any concerns that your child is showing any of the symptoms outlined above do not hesitate to contact Mr Scoot, Head of Pastoral Care.

Yours faithfully



Rob Watson
Headteacher