

6 January 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

It is with great sadness that I write to you today with the tragic news of the death of a member of staff at our school. Mrs Katherine Cocksedge who worked in our Careers team died on the 21 December by suspected suicide. Mrs Cocksedge was a much-loved member of staff who worked tirelessly to support students in making decisions about their future beyond The Farnley Academy. In addition to this, Mrs Cocksedge was heavily involved in our ambitious plan to take 50 students to Tokyo in 2021 and sought every opportunity to be involved in academy life beyond her primary role. She truly was an asset to our academy and will be sorely missed by staff and students alike.

During assemblies today we have made students aware of this news and also explained what support is available to them. Within school we have access to a large Inclusion team who are trained in supporting students through traumatic events such as this. In addition, for those who require additional support, we also have access in school to our own fully qualified counselling team. This support has been available to students today and will continue to be so every day.

Alongside our work in school, it is important that as parents / carers you speak to your child throughout this week to ensure that they are ok. When reacting to a traumatic incident, children may display behaviours such as the following:

- Cling closely to adults
- Display regressive behaviours
- Appear not to be affected
- Think about it privately
- Ask a lot of questions
- Appear frightened
- Appear agitated and angry
- Appear sad and withdrawn
- Display difficulty sleeping

If you are at all concerned about how your child is handling this news, please get in touch with your child's Inclusion and Safeguarding Officer who will put in place any required support. Details of your child's Inclusion and Safeguarding Officer is shown below:

| Year 7     | Year 8      | Year 9               | Year 10     | Year 11 |
|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|---------|
| Mrs Archer | Miss Tracey | Miss Martin-Mitchell | Mrs Baldwin | Mr Hill |

Alternatively, for more information on supporting your child, or to receive immediate support, please contact Winston's Wish (<https://www.winstonswish.org>) or Child Line (<https://www.childline.org.uk>).

I would like to thank our community for their support during this difficult time and know that you will join with me in issuing our most heartfelt condolences to Mrs Cocksedge's family and friends.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Stokes  
**Principal**