THE HART SCHOOL
Creative Education Trust

RSA/SLE

12 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to let you know that, very sadly, Harleigh Hepworth, one of our former students who left The Hart School last year, died unexpectedly on 7 March 2024. We are all shocked by this and the school community is grieving. Our thoughts and prayers are with Harleigh's family at this time.

We have spoken to students in Key Stage 4 and 5 and have personally met with those we feel may be affected by the situation. Out of respect for the family and knowing how supportive our community is, we would ask you to maintain the family's privacy at this tragic time.

News like this will affect people in different ways, and your child may be upset by the news. In school, our students have been told that they can ask to talk to any of their teachers. In addition, students know they can meet with key staff during break time, lunch time or after school if they need further support.

We will continue to offer support to students in the coming months. We recognise that grief impacts on people at different times as well as in different ways.

Please encourage your child to talk about how they are feeling. It is entirely normal to feel sad, confused, upset or angry in this situation. It is important to encourage them to discuss these emotions. Please do get in touch with us if you feel that your child needs additional support.

Please could I ask that you do not share rumours or speculation about what has happened on social media as many of these posts contain incorrect information. We have encouraged our students to come together over the last few days in a show of unity and respect. They have displayed great sensitivity and kindness, and we are very proud of them for the maturity they have shown.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Sandham
Principal