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Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday the school was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic loss of one of our students. We shared this news late yesterday afternoon with our students, staff and governors.

We were informed by the police that one of our Year 8 students, Aston Soulsby, sadly passed away yesterday morning as a result of the injuries sustained in a collision with a bus on the way home from school last Tuesday evening.

Every student contributes in no small measure to the community we create together at Phoenix. The loss of any student, particularly in so tragic a manner, hurts us all.

Aston was a talented, hard-working and caring student who had many friends at Phoenix and was liked by many of his classmates. Within school he showed a great attitude to learning at all times and will be sorely missed by us all. Aston was a very positive member of the school community and is remembered for his happy outlook on life and always smiling.

As a school we have our management procedures in place to ensure we will be providing the levels of support required to students in the coming days. The Sandwell Crisis team is also available to us with their community resources should the need arise.

Your child may have unresolved feelings that he/she would like to discuss with you. You can help your child by listening carefully, not overreacting, accepting their feelings and answering questions according to your beliefs. 'I don't know' is an answer too.

If you have any additional questions or feel the need for further assistance, you may contact either myself or a member of the Pastoral team at the school.

Earlier today, time was given to reflect on what has happened and ask that the community give the family the privacy they may require at this sad time. As a school over the coming weeks we will look to ensure a fitting long lasting memory of Aston is created.

I am sure though you will join me, our staff, students and governors in our thoughts and prayers for his family at this sad time.

Thanks for your support at this difficult time.



Mike Smith  
Associate Head teacher