



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families and Students,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Chloe's Anniversary

I write to you following the loss of our student, Chloe Longster, who died one-year ago on Tuesday 29th November. Chloe was a joyful, kind, and vivacious character and her loss has been felt very deeply by her friends and family and our school community. Naturally, today we mark a moment of solemnity and reflection, and we recognise the pain and loss felt by those nearest and closest to Chloe.

We have continued to honour Chloe's memory and legacy over the last year by creating a commemorative bench which is adorned with acrylic quotations and colours selected by Chloe's family and by presenting the inaugural Chloe Longster Award to a student who has been nominated and selected for their embodiment of the compassion, positivity and kindness that represent Chloe's characteristics. It is a symbol of our commitment to preserving her memory and ensuring that her light continues to shine brightly within the corridors, classes, and community of our school.

Today, the Chair of Governors and I will visit Chloe's memorial where we will lay flowers and take a moment for silence, pause and reflection. There will also be an opportunity for a small, bespoke group of Chloe's closest friends and family members to visit this afternoon alongside her Form Tutor and College Leader.

I wish to pay a sincere, heartfelt tribute to all students, staff and parents who have engaged in fundraising in honour of Chloe, raising over £2500 for Sepsis UK purely from school led initiatives. We are all very proud of that and I know it means a great deal to Chloe's family.

Bereavement Support

We regularly remind our students of the names of all members of the Safeguarding Team, and we have assigned key members of staff who will be available today to anticipate children in distress. We know that people will feel impacted by grief in a range of different ways because this is complex and so we have support available for students should they need to speak to someone.

I would also like to welcome you, in whatever way that you deem appropriate, to offer your ongoing thoughts, reflections or prayers to Chloe's family and friends who continue to be in our hearts. I hope we can all take strength from unity and the sense of belonging which is what it means to be part of Robert Smyth Academy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support one another through this difficult time and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal



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