



18th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will all be aware from my letter earlier this week of the sad death of Oscar Fairs, one of our Year 10 students. At a time like this, words seem so inadequate to express our concern at such a sad loss of life. Our thoughts are very much with Oscar's family, friends and loved ones.

Oscar was a friendly, talented and popular student and he will be sadly missed by the entire school community. Oscar's funeral is due to take place on Monday 23rd December at 9:30am at Corbets Tey Crematorium, Ockendon Road, Upminster, RM14 2UY. Due to venue numbers, only those who have been invited by Oscar's family will be allowed inside the Crematorium, although there will be screens and audio available to stream the service outside. I am however aware that a number of students have indicated a wish to line the route of the funeral cortege outside the school gates on Croft Road to wish Oscar a final goodbye. The family believe this will be a fitting tribute to Oscar.

The family have asked for formal funeral dress. We do ask that if your child wishes to attend and line the route outside of the school on Croft Road that they are accompanied, if possible, by an adult as we know this will be a very difficult time for our students. **We understand that the funeral cortege will contain a large number of cars so we would ask that you are mindful of this and our school neighbours when parking in the local area and to avoid Croft Road and New Park Road completely to assist traffic in the local area.** We will have a limited number of parking spaces that can be accessed via Gate B, (right hand side of the school site nearest the swimming pool). **This car park will be open at 7:30am but will close at 7:55am to ensure the route is clear for the funeral cortege.** Once the cortege has passed the car park will reopen to allow cars to exit. **Please note that the school site buildings will be closed and there will not be any access to toilets etc.** Finally, we also ask that students arrive at the school by 8.00am at the latest so that we are able to line the route appropriately.

We are a strong school with a powerful feeling of community. As such, both students and staff will support each other through this difficult time. During this week a Book of Remembrance has been opened for students to sign; it is my intention to give this book to Mr & Mrs Fairs, in remembrance of Oscar. It is a fitting tribute to an inspirational young man and is humbling to read.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support at this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Cox
Headteacher

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