

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please see a message from Luton's Director of Children's Services below which is being sent to the parents of all secondary aged school pupils in the town.

I am sure you are aware of the tragic events that have taken place across Luton recently and particularly on Friday evening. These have shaken us all and our thoughts are firmly with those who have been affected directly and their families.

It is important that we do not speculate at the moment until we have all the facts, but we do know that one of our Key Stage 4 pupils was injured in one of the incidents. Although his injuries are serious, they are not critical. Our thoughts are very much with this family at this sad and difficult time.

Today we will be speaking to students to reassure them of the measures in place to keep them safe in school and around the town. There is a coordinated approach with many agencies.

We will also be providing counselling support for anyone who needs this and if you feel this would be of benefit to your child please contact us so that we can arrange it.

If you have any particular concerns that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me by email at head@lealands.luton.sch.uk and either myself or someone will contact you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Burridge
Headteacher

Dear all

I am sure many of you would have seen the reports over the weekend and share our deep shock and sadness of the passing of a teenage boy in Luton on Friday following reports of stabbings.

As is often the case, misinformation and rumours have spread on social media which may be causing additional anxiety and concern for families.

The local authority has been in close liaison with the police over the weekend and we have had assurance that there is no further threat from Friday's incidents and your children are safe to attend school as normal. Five people have been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Any child or parent who wants to discuss concerns and feel they need to talk to someone about this weekend's incidents or something they have seen online are encouraged to speak to your child's school in the first instance.

Of course, if you would feel more comfortable talking to someone outside of the school environment, BLMK Mind Matters offer a safe, non-judgmental space to discuss and explore issues around wellbeing and mental health: <https://www.mind-blmk.org.uk/how-we-can-help/bedford/mind-matters/>

Incidents like these bring concern to the whole community, and there remains a profound sense of sadness that a life so young has been lost in these circumstances.

The police issued a statement earlier today setting out their continued commitment to working with partners across Luton and wider to address the key drivers of serious youth violence. This cannot be done by the police alone and we have a joined up approach across many organisations including the local authority and schools.

We must all continue to work together to tackle knife crime and serious youth violence.

Wishing you all a good week ahead.

Yours sincerely

Dheeraj Chibber
Director of Children's Service, Luton Borough Council