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Dear Parent/Carer,

This is a letter a Headteacher never wants to write and I am writing to you during a time when Broad Oak is still reeling from the devastating loss of one of our much loved and well liked students. This has been a truly sad and difficult time for our school community. As you will be aware from the reports in the press and from my letter last Friday we have lost one of our amazing year 8 students, Shukri Abdi who died last week. All our thoughts, prayers and love are with her family at this time.

I wanted to write to let you know how proud I am of our students that they have responded with such maturity and I also wanted to thank you for all the tributes that have been sent to school. The school has really come together in mourning and to show our sorrow we have set up an area in our main foyer, where flowers cards and pictures have been placed as a memorial. Staff and students from across the school have written some heartwarming messages expressing sadness and heartache at the loss of a fellow member of the school family.

I am also writing to reassure you that since hearing the news last week we have been working in partnership with Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire, Healthy Young Minds (NHS), The Educational Psychology Team, Bury Social Care and Bury Local Authority to ensure all our young people are supported at this time. We have actioned a daily programme to work with those young people directly or indirectly affected by this tragedy.

We are very aware of the negative social media that has surrounded this community and want be very clear that we have asked our students to use social media respectfully and we thank parents who have done the same and for their messages of support for the school over the last few days.

The students are very keen to make sure we move forward with respect and have already started to talk about how we can remember Shukri. They are very keen to have permanent memorials and charity activities in her memory and we will of course be taking this forward with Shukri's family and in conjunction with local groups within the community and update you in the near future.

I want to reassure you that all the staff here at school are committed to ensuring the last few weeks of this term are safe and productive.

A book of condolence has been opened in our Reception where any member of our community are welcome to write their own messages to the family at this sad time.

If you have any concerns, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Greenhalgh
Headteacher