



SJB/Plo

26th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will probably have seen that our community has been rocked by the sudden and tragic passing of the wonderful Lewis Streeton. Sadly, this is the second member of our community to have lost their life in recent months as we had to say goodbye to our own Lucy Stokes in April.

Losing someone is hard, but losing someone so young is one of the hardest things to do. In the case of Lewis and Lucy, both were so engaging, funny and loved by all who are part of the Dene Magna family.

We lost Lucy in April and whilst she had moved away from the area, we all remember that infectious smile, endless cheekiness and a sprinkle of Sassy! Lucy was kind and caring and she would always offer herself to support and look after others. In her time with us, she developed very strong bonds with students and staff and we continue to think of her and those loved ones that are missing her so badly.

Lewis was House Captain for Dowty House and he could always be seen talking to students and offering support and advice. Younger students looked up to him and he knew how to talk to people, whatever their age. He was cheeky, charming yet polite and he loved Dene Magna. Following the news, staff talked about their own memories of Lewis and everyone agreed that they were the better for knowing him.

As a total petrol head, Lewis loved talking about cars. Any conversation in school could be turned around with Lewis mentioning a car, but in spite of these cunning attempts at distraction, Lewis left Dene Magna to pursue his love of all things petrol.

Loss is a hard thing for anyone to deal with and Lewis touched so many lives in our local area. We know that the students and staff are missing him and that many are still trying to process what has happened.

If your daughter/son is struggling with this then do encourage them to get in touch with us so that we can help. Grief is often a complex thing and some people are affected in many different ways.

Equally, if you know of others who have been affected then please do visit our website for help. You will find a number of links on bereavement and loss in our safeguarding section (look in the targeted support section).

We are in touch with the family and we pass on all of our love and support to those affected. Please keep talking and remember that it is OK to not feel OK.

Both students will be missed by us, but they will always remain part of the Dene Magna family and we will always be there to support those who need our help.

As the wonderful Dave Grohl says, 'It's times like these you learn to live again'

Take care everyone.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Brady', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Brady
Headteacher