

Ernest Bevin College and Sixth Form Centre



A Specialist Sports, Mathematics & Computing College

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Principal: Ann Keane-Maher

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Dear parents and carers,

You may have heard reports about a serious incident that took place in Wandsworth on Thursday afternoon. We were all shocked and saddened to hear that a 15 year old boy had been fatally stabbed, another injured and several young people arrested. Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of the victims.

It is hard to comprehend the loss that one family must be feeling. Only a few days ago this young man had years of joy and pleasure ahead of him, which have been taken away in a few short seconds. This incident will have a profound impact upon many other lives for years to come.

We made contact with the relevant people at the Local Authority early on Friday morning and established that no Ernest Bevin students were among the victims or those arrested. However this incident reminds us of the dangers of street violence in the area.

We will work with the Schools Police Service to speak with the students in an age appropriate manner about these dangers and advice around staying safe. We will address issues such as weapons, peer pressure and personal safety. It is clear from the history of violent incidents in London over recent years that carrying weapons hugely increases the risk of serious injury or death. A knife does not offer protection.

We ask that all families discuss this with their children, exercise appropriate levels of supervision and that we work together to keep our students safe.

As parents you may find it useful to check whether you are able to answer the following questions and make sure you keep an open dialogue with your child/children:

- Who are my child/children with?
- What do they have with them?
- Where are they?
- What are they doing?
- Do I know where any money or expensive items have come from?
- How do they use social media and what is on their accounts?

Please do get in touch with the college if you have concerns or need help. You can talk to your child's tutor or Head of Year or the Safeguarding Lead Mr Sullivan, in confidence.

Yours,

Ann Keane-Maher