



5th March 2019

Dear Parent / carers

RE: Purple Friday in memory of Jodie Chesney

As a community we were all shocked with the tragic loss of life of Jodie Chesney. She is described by Havering Sixth Form College as an excellent, hardworking and focussed student.

On Monday I delivered six assemblies to ensure that I spoke to every pupil and student. My aims were to give respect to Jodie, ensure our pupils and students were aware of any support if they required it and finally a reminder of how to improve their own safety.

Following an assembly a member of our Sixth Form approached me and asked if we could have a day to remember Jodie. She explained to me that friends of hers at the college were planning a day involving students wearing something purple as this was Jodie's favourite colour. A GoFundMe page has since been set up <https://www.gofundme.com/vth8tt-funeral-fund> should people wish to make a donation.

This Friday, pupils, students and staff will be invited to 'wear something purple' for the day. This may be a hair band, t-shirt, socks etc. This is not a non-uniform day and I would appreciate pupils and students to respect the fact that having an item of purple is symbolic in remembering Jodie. A member of the community has also said they will be making purple ribbons for pupils and students to pin to their clothes. We plan to have these available on the day. All we ask is for a small donation that we will pay towards the fund (suggestion £1 per person).

As a school, we take the issues surrounding knife crime very seriously. Over the past year we have been working closely with The Kiyon Prince Foundation, set up by Dr Mark Prince OBE, following the death of his son, Kiyon on May 18th 2006. Mark will be coming in on Wednesday to deliver sessions for Years 7 to 9, having already worked with pupils in Key Stage 4. You can find out about The KPF at www.thekpf.com.

PC Wayne Hopkins, our School Liaison Officer has reassured me that there is an increased police presence in and around Harold Hill. As a community it is important that we pull together and even more so, considering the event last Friday. It goes without saying that as parents you will be reiterating the messages of staying safe, as I have done during our assemblies.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Darren Luckhurst
Principal

