



Building Inspiring Caring

CIRCULAR 2018/19 TL041

To: Parents/Guardians of Yr8, Yr9 & Yr10students
Cc: Bursar
January 2019

Student Support

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the sudden death of a past student and brother of two current students at Blackwater IC.

Your child may be aware of this or know students who are directly affected by this tragedy. They may not want to talk about it but it is possible that they will need extra love and support from you. This does not mean that anything is wrong with them. It only means that this traumatic event has been difficult for them to deal with on their own. They may be feeling anxious. Take time to listen to your child and try to provide a predictable routine for them at home.

We are deeply saddened by this great loss but are trying, for the pupils' sake, to keep the school environment as normal as possible. Our thoughts are with the family at this time and the school community sends them sincerest sympathy and support.

As part of our Pastoral Care in the College we provide support through our Form Tutor system along with input from outside agencies such as Beat the Blues, YMCA, Youth Initiatives and Family Works Counselling. Please encourage your child to speak with any of the staff at this time if they are in need of advice or support.

PIPs, a service which offers support and counselling for young people who are suffering from anxiety and self-harm are holding a support meeting in the Ballymote Centre (beside Supervalu) on Thursday 10th January at 6:30pm.

Other external agencies which can offer support include:

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| Cruse Bereavement Care | 0808 808 1677 |
| Lifeline | 0808 808 8000 |
| Barnardo's Child Bereavement Service | 028 9067 2399 |
| THE HUB Ballynahinch | 028 9756 1100 |

If you require further clarification or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.