



Traditional **Values** Contemporary **Aspirations** Creative **Curiosity**

ML.18.19.0046.KBR
11th October 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to inform you of a special assembly, which we will be hosting for Year 9, after the half-term holiday.

On Thursday 29th November 2018, we will be joined by local man, Mr Dennis Graham and his daughter Sophie, who both work with the Papyrus charity; they will be talking to Year 9 pupils about teenage suicide and how it can be prevented.

In the UK, approximately 4,400 people every year end their lives by suicide; 1,700 of these individuals are under the age of 30.

As you are no doubt aware, Malet Lambert and the wider local community have been deeply affected by the sad loss of friends and colleagues to suicide. As a team of staff, we feel passionately about doing what we can to help address this issue.

Our assembly will focus on Mr Graham's son, Matthew, a sixth form student who took his own life in April 2010. We do anticipate that the presentation will be a very moving and emotional experience for pupils, but we believe that being open about the realities of suicide is not only part of the healing process for our community, but is key in helping others to realise that help *is* available and that they need not be alone in their despair.

We acknowledge the need for the careful consideration which must be given to this issue and we wish to avoid causing all pupils any unnecessary distress. To this end, may we ask that you discuss the content of the assembly with your child and, following your discussion, if you would prefer your child not to take part, would you please complete the 'Opt-out' form attached to this letter. 'Opt-out' forms should be returned to House Offices by Monday 26th November 2018.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of the undersigned, in the event that you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully

J Lynch (Mrs)
Learning Support and Engagement Manager

S Ellington (Mrs)
Child Protection Co-ordinator

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MALET LAMBERT

**Year 9 Special Assembly
Thursday 29th November 2018**

'Opt-out' Form

Pupil Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Having discussed the Special Assembly with my child, named above, I would prefer that he / she does not take part.

Signed: _____ (parent/carer)

Relationship to pupil: _____

Please return this slip to your child's House Office by Monday 26th November 2018