

# The Warriner School

Responsible - Respectful – Ready

A member of The Warriner Multi  
Academy Trust

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1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardian,

I thought it was important to write to you all to explain the plans we have in place, in school, for the day of Matthew Cowley's funeral: Friday 8 December.

As you can imagine, this is a very sad time for everyone in the school community and we are very keen to support and respect Matthew's family and his memory, especially on this day, so we have considered carefully how best to do this.

If your child/children would like to attend Matthew's funeral, we fully support this and it would be classed as an authorised absence, so please do not be concerned about attendance matters. We also advise that any child wanting to attend his funeral at St Mary's Church in Banbury at 11am, should be accompanied by a parent/adult. Please do not send your child in to school before the funeral, this would be too unsettling for all concerned. Additionally, if your child wants to attend the balloon release which is due to take place after the funeral in Jubilee Park, Bloxham but does not attend the funeral, then please inform the school that this is the case and pick your child up from reception at a given time, where they will sign out as normal. Again, we advise that the child is accompanied for this event by a parent/adult and, again, this would be classed as an authorised absence.

Matthew's funeral cortege will come through the front of the school's grounds at approximately 10.30am and we have organised for Year 9s to show their respect by lining this route, with their Tutor and other members of staff who will support more widely. We are also allowing other students to join them if they have requested to do so – this is being organised via their Heads of Year. However, if any Year 9 student does not feel they want to see the possession pass, that is also fine with us, and they will stay in school with another member of staff. Indeed, please be assured there will be various rooms across the school, being manned by staff, to support any student who is feeling over-whelmed by the day.



During this time, the rest of the school will be with their tutors, in their tutor group and doing whatever their tutor thinks is best for them; to sit quietly reflecting, to do some mindfulness work, schoolwork or just talking quietly with others in their tutor group.

We will also allow students to wear red on this day, but I would ask if you can check the appropriateness of your child's choice of red garment before they leave for school next Friday. Also, please be clear this is as an addition to the school uniform – it is not a non-uniform day.

Next Friday will be a difficult day for many people, but at the heart of the day will be Matthew's parents and sisters, Maddie and Amie. We are sending our condolences to them and to all of Matthew's many Warriner School friends.

If you have any questions about next Friday's plans, please do get in touch with your child's Head of Year and they will be able to answer your queries.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Nicholls'.

Sharon Nicholls  
Head of School