



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

MSc (Educational Leadership), BA (Economics)

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Reference: Murder of Oliver (Olly) Stephens in Caversham on 3 January 2021**

We recently received a letter from Andy Howard, Detective Chief Inspector, Major Crime Unit, Thames Valley Police in his capacity as the Senior Investigating Officer for the investigation into the murder of 13 year old Olly Stephens in Caversham, Berkshire on Sunday 3 January 2021. You may be aware that three young people have been charged in connection with Olly's death and two more children are on police bail whilst further enquiries are made.

Olly's tragic death has received widespread reporting in both local and national media and it is also clear that it is an ongoing subject of significant communication across a wide number of social media platforms. As well as the five young people arrested, a large number of young people have been spoken to as part of the investigation as potential witnesses. Some of these young people have displayed real personal and moral courage and a multi-agency plan has been developed to support and safeguard all concerned.

The reasons for DCI Andy Howard's letter are three-fold. Firstly, to raise awareness in case there are any children in our school community who may be directly affected by Olly's death - either because they knew Olly or others involved, or because they have any relevant information. Secondly, to seek your support in encouraging the children in your care who do have information about the circumstances of Olly's death, to report this to Thames Valley Police. The third reason is to ask for your support in sharing a very important message. From the outset of the investigation a number of individual names and addresses of young people reported to be involved in this investigation have been published on social media platforms along with various speculation and rumour as to what has happened. The police are therefore appealing for our community to help stop this speculation and rumours out of respect for Olly's family and friends, but also because it has the real potential to impact on the ability of those accused of Olly's murder to have a fair trial.

There are a number of ways that anybody who has information to provide or who wishes to speak to the police in connection with Olly's death can contact the investigation team:

- Via telephone number 101 and quoting reference 43210002635
- Via webform at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)
- Or, alternatively information can be reported anonymously and in complete confidence via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

Of course, should your child be affected by any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at school by emailing the school office, FAO Mrs J Bhadye (DSL), and we can discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jo Bhadye

Assistant Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead