



# PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL

*Educating the Students of Wexford Since 1818*

*"Our Best Always"*



4<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The school sadly, has experienced the sudden death of one of our 6<sup>th</sup> year students Hannah Kelly RIP.

We are all deeply saddened by Hannah's sudden passing, we remember her as a friendly, dedicated, hard-working student. Just last week I personally had enjoyed spending the day with Hannah and her classmates at their 6<sup>th</sup> year retreat in Ballyvaloo. Her family, friends, teachers, and the wider community will sadly miss Hannah. Our thoughts & prayers are with the Kelly family, and all of Hannah's friends and the whole school community at this time.

We have support structures in place to help your child cope with this tragedy.

It is possible that your child may have some feelings and questions that she may like to discuss with you. It is important to give information that is appropriate to their age. You can help your child by taking time to listen and by encouraging them to express their feelings. All children are different and will express their feelings in different ways. It is not uncommon for children to have difficulty concentrating or to be fearful, anxious, or irritable. They may become withdrawn, cry, complain of physical aches and pains, have difficulty sleeping or have nightmares. Some may not want to eat. These are generally short-term reactions. Over the course of the days to come, please keep an eye on your child and allow her to express their feelings without criticism. Although classes will continue as usual, I anticipate that the next few days will be difficult for everyone involved. I would encourage your daughters to attend school as much as possible over the next few days, where there are support structures in place. We are here to help your child through this difficult time. Our NEPS psychologists, guidance counsellors, school counsellor and staff have been here helping us all as a community get through this sad loss. If you would like advice, you may contact the following people at the school:

- William Ryan Principal
- Mary Dooley Deputy Principal
- Caroline Ryan Deputy Principal
- Brid Kavanagh Guidance Counsellor
- Damien Nugent Guidance Counsellor
- Christine Doyle Counsellor

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Principal: Mr. William Ryan Deputy Principal: Ms. Mary Dooley Deputy Principal: Ms. Caroline Ryan

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Young people frequently turn to social media to see what others are saying, or to find out more. At these times, it is important that you monitor their use and engage with them about what they read. We urge you to emphasise and reinforce the need to be extremely sensitive and careful about what they post.

If you would like advice, you may contact myself at the number below.

For any help or further information, please see:

[www.spunout.ie](http://www.spunout.ie)

[www.pieta.ie](http://www.pieta.ie)

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kelly family, and Hannah's friends at this difficult time.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

Sincerely,

Principal