



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

5 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will now know of the tragic death of 14-year-old Tomasz Oleszak. Tomasz was from Gateshead but did not attend Emmanuel College. He was the victim of a suspected assault on Monday evening. The police have arrested a teenager on suspicion of murder, and he remains in police custody.

I have been asked by the police to convey a number of key messages about this incident. Please respect the privacy of the victim's family. The police are asking that the public do not speculate about details of the investigation, and this includes activity on social media that may inadvertently disrupt the investigation and cause unnecessary upset to the family of the victim. If you do know something, please approach the police directly. Any information can be passed to the police by calling 101 or by using the "Tell Us Something" page on the police website: <https://services.northumbria.police.uk/online-services/tell-us-something/>. The police would like to thank people for the support given to officers. Officers remain in the area to carry out a range of enquires and offer reassurance to the public.

Headteachers in Gateshead, and the Emmanuel community, will be reflecting on how to respond to this incident and in particular, how we can play our part in preventing this from happening at any point in the future.

Thankfully, we don't believe that students from Emmanuel College are directly connected to this incident but there may be students in our community who are upset, anxious or grieving. I encourage students to make use of the support available in College if they need to. A range of resources as well as information about how to access welfare support in school can be found on the school website: <https://www.emmanuelcollege.org.uk/parents/welfare-support/>.

I would like to convey my deepest sympathies to Tomasz's family at this most difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Waterfield
Principal