



16th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We have some very sad news to share.

We learned over the weekend that Nikisha Burke, our Assistant Head of English and a much-loved tutor in Turing House, died yesterday following a period of illness with cancer.

We've been in contact with the family to express how sad we are about this news and to offer our support. Many of you will be aware that Nikisha's husband and brother in law are also teachers at the college. Understandably, the family is still coming to terms with what has happened and appreciates having some privacy for now.

We've shared this news with your child through a special assembly this morning. If you have concerns about how your child is coping with this news, you can contact the Turing House office at: turinghouse@elycollege.co.uk and by phone on 01353 652876. We have ensured that we have additional counselling resources available in college over the next few days and have given the staff clear guidance on the signs to be aware of when children are grieving and need support.

If your child is upset and you would like some guidance on how to support them at home, we would recommend the following useful resources:

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/understanding-grief/grief-experiences/children-young-people/signs-of-grief/> The UK's leading bereavement charity with excellent resources.

<https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/> A student-based resource for grief support.

We'll be in touch soon with details about how we will come together as a college to celebrate Nikisha's life and contribution to our community.

Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warburton
Principal