



March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a difficult few weeks as we try to come to terms with the sudden death of Thomas Balkham. On Tuesday the funeral was held for Tom and the tributes were made by family members to a much-loved member of the community. A celebration of Tom's life took place afterwards at the Seaford Rugby Club where friends and family shared memories of Tom. Although it was a very sad occasion, there was much laughter as people remembered Tom's sense of fun and the joy he brought to everyone's life.

On Tuesday of next week (26 March) at 3.30pm we will be holding a football match at the Downs Leisure Centre in memory of Tom. This will take place between the Year 8s and Year 9s. It has been organised by Mr Sutton and will be refereed by Mr MacDonald and everyone is welcome to support. A GoFundMe page has been set up in Tom's memory to raise money for the RNLI, WOLO and the Emergency Services. A link to this page can be found [here](#).

It has been a very sad time for everyone at the school but the kindness that staff, students and their families have shown each other has helped us through. We are also very grateful for the support and kindness that we have received from the wider community. This must continue in the future as it is a fitting tribute to Tom's memory. We will continue to work with Tom's family to ensure that we have a fitting memorial that shows how much he was loved and that he will never be forgotten.

The memorial book will be kept open until the end of term and will be presented to Tom's parents after the holiday.

Best wishes

Mr R Ellis
Headteacher

Seaford Learning Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

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