

Lincoln Rugby Football Club

Longdales Park

Lodge Lane

Nettleham.

LN2 2RS



Dear All,

As some of you may now be aware, it is with a sad, heavy heart that I inform you that Sam Staple from our U16's boys team passed away on Tuesday.

It was decided that the team would come into the Clubhouse on Wednesday to share this challenging time together, as you can imagine it was a very emotional for all, but I could not have been prouder of everyone. The maturity and compassion of our young players, the camaraderie and friendship of the parents and the effort that our Coaches and volunteers made to ensure every player and parent had access to the support they will need was fantastic. From the Club I would like to thank you so much for you have done, and I know will continue to do.

Sam was a funny, cheeky, larger than life character and was an incredibly special young man. A keen supporter of Stockport County FC and Wasps, he was enthusiastic about playing rugby, and enjoying the company of his teammates, which could be seen by anyone watching him playing with a smile on his face in his final game last Sunday.

Sam was a pupil at De Aston School, and always looked forward to playing the local derby game with Market Rasen & Louth RFC, where many of his schoolmates became his rugby rivals. Lincoln's junior fixtures this weekend will be against Market Rasen, and both sets of U16's players have bravely agreed to play Sunday's match in Sam's honour. Ahead of the 11am kick off, there is a planned moment of reflection where we will be paying our respects on Pitch 1 with a minute's silence, followed by a minute's applause.

A minute's silence will be held prior to all Lincoln's games this weekend as well as other clubs from around the region, and the number of messages of support and condolence from other Rugby clubs has been phenomenal.

If you are at rugby club this weekend, please join us in paying your respects, it will be an emotional, but a fitting tribute, and it is what Sam would have wanted!

Yours sincerely

Chris Briggs

Director of Age Grade Rugby