

2 Cotswold Close  
Bredon, Tewkesbury  
Gloucestershire,  
GL20 7QW, ENGLAND  
18.01.2011

To Honourable Judge John Hall

Dominic was a unique individual, full of life and energy for anything he loved. His smile would light up any room and not many people could be unhappy in his presence.

Dominic was a very happy contented little boy, always a kiss and hug before bed, school or anything important and this carried on well into his teen years. How we miss those hugs and being able to tell him how much we love him. There is a huge hole in our hearts and family where Dominic belongs.

We have been robbed of a young man with a huge potential for life and 100% commitment to anything he enjoyed. We will never see Dominic grow older, meet the love of his life and continue to share his love of life. We don't know what the future held for Dominic but now we will never have that opportunity.

The actions of one individual have devastated our lives and that of our family and friends. It is like a bomb went off in the middle of our family on 24th June but the after effects are still going on and will do so forever.

It is hard to imagine a future without Dominic in it physically, though we will carry him in our hearts forever our beautiful son.

Our daughter Laura was brave enough to talk at Dominic's funeral so we include some of her comments; to me Dominic was an amazing brother with a heart of gold. He made the most of everyday he lived and managed to put a smile on a lot of people's faces. Dominic was a massive influence in my life, he always looked out for me and it will never be the same without him. I am going to miss you so much.

Dominic's big brother Matthew also spoke at the funeral about:-  
The way Dom made people smile and laugh, his fierce sense of loyalty for his friends.  
Dom lived in and for the moment and what mattered most was having a good time, whether it be, snowboarding, making and listening to music, Tae-Kwando, rugby, acting or skating.  
Dom had a dream and he made it happen, he was having the time of his life on his big American adventure.

Now that the person responsible for our son Dominic's death has been found guilty on all 8 counts we would respectfully request that you sentence the driver to the longest possible sentence.

I am sorry but I cannot bring myself to even write the drivers name in this statement while all I can think about is Dominic. This person has shown no remorse (as far as we are aware) for the complete devastation he has caused to our family. We have survived without Dominic since he was so suddenly and brutally taken away from us on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 by the actions of a person who appears to have no regard for human life and the consequences of his actions. We live each day with the fact that Dominic has gone from our lives forever, no more smiles, hugs or kisses, no more Christmases or birthdays to share with him just an empty feeling and a gap in our family where he belongs.

The time in December during which the trial was taking place was very traumatic, waiting each day for phone calls and e-mails hoping that justice would be done. (We will be eternally grateful for the support from Manon and Kate.) My heart goes out to the boys who so bravely gave evidence and as a consequence will have relived the

night Dominic and Emily were killed. I hope their evidence together with the other witnesses will ensure that the maximum sentence has to be the right one.

We had a wonderful message from Dominic on 21<sup>st</sup> June telling us exactly what he was doing and how much he was looking forward to the kids arriving so he could start the activities with them, this had always been one of Dominic's dreams. He said "it's really, really cool, I'm so happy I ended up here" and he thanked us for helping with all the planning to get him to America and told us he loved us. We will never hear him say that ever again and we will never be able to tell him how much we loved him. We never got to say goodbye because he was supposed to come home from his big American adventure!

Please Judge for the sake of our family and Emily's, keep this driver off the roads for as long as possible so he can't make anybody else go through what we are.

We could tell you about Dominic forever but we hope this has provided an insight into the sort of person he was and how his death has devastated us all.

Yours Sincerely

Bernadette, Andrew, and Laura Hartley