

School girl,15,run away with her married teacher?(Free mixing with no moral/religious beliefs?)

Just come back safe: Father's plea to girl, 15, who is on the run in France with her married teacher

- **Police believe Megan Stammers is with Jeremy Forrest, from East Sussex**
- **He is a maths teacher at the teenager's school in Eastbourne**
- **Pair were caught on camera as they drove onto a ferry at Dover**

By Tom KELLY,Inderdeep Bain and Claire Ellicott

The devastated family of a schoolgirl who ran away to France with her married teacher yesterday pleaded with her to 'come home safe'.

Megan Stammers, 15, boarded a Channel ferry with maths teacher Jeremy Forrest, 30, after he spent months grooming her on Twitter to escape on an 'adventure' with him.

As British and French police launched a hunt for the pair, Megan's father Martin Stammers last night told the Daily Mail: 'It's been hell. We have no idea where she is.'

'The whole family has been rallying together and we've been working closely with the police. We just want her home safe.'

Mr Stammers, who teaches at the sister school of Forrest's, pleaded on his Facebook page: 'Come home safe my beautiful daughter xx.'

His plea came as neighbours of Forrest claimed he was prone to aggressive outbursts during domestic disputes with his wife.

They said police had been called to his family home on several occasions.

Megan was last seen by her family on Friday morning when she left her mother's home in Eastbourne, East Sussex, apparently to attend Bishop Bell School in the town, where Forrest works.

But neither the pupil nor the teacher arrived at school, and CCTV footage from later that evening showed them in Forrest's car in Dover boarding a Calais-bound ferry.

Megan's step-mother Tracy Stammers said the family was devastated by her disappearance. In tears, she said: 'This is completely out of character for Megan. We don't know how to deal with this, she should be at home with us.'

'She is the most beautiful and loveliest young girl ever and we just want her home safe.'

Forrest appeared to have been wooing the youngster for several months through Twitter, including a message declaring: 'Me & you. Let's just run away.'

FOUR MONTHS OF GROOMING ON TWITTER

RUNAWAY teacher Jeremy Forrest allegedly spent four months grooming the schoolgirl by bombarding her with romantic Twitter messages.

The married 30-year-old - who is a singer-songwriter in his spare time - repeatedly posted tweets apparently meant for teenager Megan Stammers, often in the style of slushy song lyrics.

In one post, he wrote: 'I'm sinking like a stone in the sea. I'm burning like a bridge for your body.' In another, he said: 'There are some things I'll live without. But I want you to know that I need

you right now. I need you tonight...'

Forrest twice urged her to 'run away' with him and in a separate blog post, he compared her to taking class A drugs.

The first suggestion of his apparent romance with the underage schoolgirl appears in a blog composed on May 19, describing a 'moral dilemma' he was facing.

He wrote: 'About a week ago I had a bit of a moral dilemma to deal with, both internally and externally.'

A series of tweets followed, apparently aimed at Megan. On

May 30, he wrote: 'Girl, I say if only life would lean our way. Well, you and me, we'd run away to be wherever our adventure waits.'

Two weeks later, he posted: 'I don't want to be what they want me to be. I only want to be with you.' In another, he indicated plans for a clandestine meeting, writing: 'A sign please!!! Is it safe?' And a few days later, he said: 'Me & you. Let's just run away.'

But amid all his romantic messages there are hints of a temper. On June 22, he wrote: 'If anger was a currency, I'd be so ****ing rich right now...'

On ask.fm, a website where members ask each other questions, Megan was asked four days ago whether she felt excited or curious about her future.

She replied: 'Excited, because I know what is to come...' She also said her motto in life was YOLO, an acronym for 'You only live once'.

Forrest's wife, Emily, 31, recently described in an online post how the couple married in a castle last year and had 'never looked back' after moving to their home in Ringmer in East Sussex in 2009. But a neighbour of the couple, who asked not to be named, yesterday said they had repeatedly fought during their time living there. She said: 'They've been here three years and it's been absolute hell because they row constantly.'



Megan Stammers is a pupil at the Bishop Bell Church of England School, in Eastbourne

'Sometimes their rows were so intense I phoned the police. Nothing ever came of it though and the rows continued.'

'I'd worry for that schoolgirl's safety if I was her mother. I don't know what happened with his wife, but it didn't sound pleasant. From their rows, I'd say he didn't sound like the kind of person you'd want near your child.'

Even Forrest's father was aghast at his son's behaviour and urged him to return Megan to her family.

Jim Forrest, a 59-year-old IT worker, said: 'We're all devastated. Everyone in the family is just

saying "what?!" They can't believe it.

'In Britain, everyone is innocent until proven guilty, we know that, but first things first, let's get them back. I've tried to contact Jeremy, but his phone is off. I told him "call me, I know what's going on".



The schoolgirl is believed to have travelled from Dover to Calais nine hours after she was reported missing to police

'Jeremy has always had a real passion for teaching. I once ran a school football team alongside him, and I can tell you categorically, children looked up to him and respected him. He is a popular teacher with students.'

'He's a passionate musician and has been in a band since he was 14. A 15-year-old girl has gone missing and we know that this is serious stuff. We're under no illusions what it could mean, but let's get them home and then deal with it.'

Police said the couple boarded a ferry at 9.20pm on Friday in Forrest's black Ford Fiesta car, registration number of GJ08 RJO.

Megan was described as 5ft 6in tall, slim, with long dark brown hair. She was last seen wearing a white vest top and a silver necklace.