



12 January 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians

***Re: Weather Conditions***

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the way in which you have supported us during the recent extremely difficult weather conditions. As you will see from my previous letters posted on the website, we have had to make some difficult decisions over the past week and it is always as a last resort that we close the school, but we have to ensure that staff and students are not put at risk, and this will always be our priority.

I wanted to write to explain how we would like to deal with the severe weather conditions for the remainder of this week.

**We have decided to change the lunchtime arrangements for the remainder of this week so that students go to period 5 at 2pm and finish school at 3pm.**

On each day Years 7 and 8 will start lunch early at 1.15pm to enable all students to purchase lunch within the shorter time frame. Whilst we recognise that both year groups will lose 15 minutes for three lessons, we believe this will be off-set by a much better period 5 and will reduce some issues around health and safety and student well-being. Students are complaining of being cold, particularly in terms of their feet; we want to focus on learning and the longer lunch-time is impacting on students' capacity to concentrate during period 5. Also, by finishing earlier, students will avoid some of the icier conditions that have been reported towards the end of the day.

We are also offering a film club throughout the lunch time period, which we hope the younger students will take advantage of.

This decision has been taken in light of discussions with other local schools who are implementing similar arrangements.

We intend to revert to the normal school timetable on Monday 18 January, although we will need to consider the weather conditions on Friday 15 before we make our final decision. This will be reported in the Longdean Link and on the school website.

Given that we expect to revert to the normal timetable, we would also expect students to attend in the correct uniform, including wearing black polishable shoes.

The Governing Body is currently considering how we might claw back any days lost due to the weather, although this may prove very difficult, and I will let you know their decision as soon as possible.

I would also like to remind you that we did provide 'school closure' work that students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 can still access on the VLE.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

***R D Bryant***  
***Headteacher***

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