

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update on school closure – 3rd November 2020

I am writing to provide an update and more detailed information regarding my decision to close the academy this morning. I was informed just after 6AM that a high-pressure water pipe located in the ceiling of the main body of the school had failed and as such the water supply to the academy had to be switched off immediately. Had the water remained on, the pipe would have burst thus flooding the school. This left the academy without any water supply meaning that toilets, heating and kitchen were unable to function. Therefore, I had no option but to close the academy in order to ensure the Health and Safety of all students and staff.

Engineers were on site by 7AM and confirmed that the course of action taken by the academy site team to turn the water off was the correct one. A repair has been carried out today in order to ensure we remain closed for as little time as possible. At present it is my intention to reopen the academy tomorrow, Wednesday 4th November 2020, although I would urge parents to read the next paragraph carefully.

The engineers who carried out the repair will be in school at 6AM tomorrow morning in order to turn the water supply back on and check that the repair has worked. If the repair has worked the academy will open as normal. There is a very slight possibility that the repair will not work as the sealant around the pipe won't set in time. **We will send you a text message and email around 7AM to confirm whether the academy is open. Parents should assume that we will reopen and plan for children to return. Children should only remain at home if a text message and email is received stating that the academy remains closed.**

COVID-19

I intended to write to parents today to provide an update regarding COVID-19 and our risk assessment in school in light of government announcements. As cases increase locally it was inevitable that a member of the school community would test positive at some point. Just prior to the holiday period a staff member, who had been self-isolating as a close contact, was tested and produced a positive result after the academy had closed. To reassure parents, all children and staff who were close contacts were notified and asked to isolate in accordance with risk assessment processes.

The risk assessment for COVID-19 is available on the academy website and measures are followed to reduce the risk. This has been successful in the last half term. I am sure parents/carers are aware, given the very high numbers of positive cases, no school can guarantee that a child or staff member won't test positive but we can follow our rigorous risk assessment procedures to reduce the risk.

Thank you to all parents for your support on these two very important matters.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Cooke
Headteacher