

7th January 2025

VBU/DSK

Re: Return to school after snow closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As you know, the school was closed today due to the adverse weather conditions of snow and ice. This decision is never made lightly, and it is only taken to ensure the safety of all members of our school community. Huge efforts have been made by the site team to make the site safe - including the use of a snow plough to clear paths and the car park.

If school does open as planned tomorrow, to ensure the safest possible start to the school day, the school gates will open at **8:30am** rather than the usual time of 8:00am, to allow the sun a chance to thaw any remaining ice and provide a safer journey to school for everyone. Although we have planned to and expect to open at 8:30 tomorrow, this is subject to change based on the weather overnight and a final decision will be communicated to you by 6am tomorrow morning.

As a result, there will be **no form time**, and students should go straight to their **Period 1 lesson**. Breakfast will be available in the dining hall from **8:30am - 8:58am**, and students are welcome to make use of this provision if they wish before their first lesson. Students will be expected to go directly to their first lesson for 9am - this week is Week B.

There will be no detentions or extra-curricular activities on Wednesday. For the safety of students and staff, we want everyone to be able to leave site at the end of the school day and be able to travel in the daylight.

In terms of appropriate footwear, if your child has suitable shoes for walking in snowy or icy conditions, such as **walking boots** or **wellies**, they are permitted to wear these as their regular footwear for the day. Alternatively, students may wear their **school trainers** and bring a **bag** to place their wet shoes in for safekeeping. If wearing trainers, they should be the usual **plain black school trainers** (no Crocs).

Principal: Mrs Gemma Earles, MA, NPQH

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“Everything is possible for one who believes” Mark 9:23



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🐦 @BradfordForster

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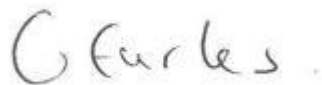
Although the heating is on in school and the building is nice and warm, we know students may need extra layers to stay warm if they are walking in the cold. If wearing a jumper under their coat, it should be a **plain navy school jumper**, with no logos or patches. Any jumpers not following the school uniform policy must be removed once in the building.

Please be aware that **social times** may be adjusted, and students may be directed to different areas of the school than usual depending on the weather conditions. Furthermore, the snow has now turned to ice, and for safety reasons, **throwing snowballs or iceballs is strictly prohibited**. This behaviour could result in injury, and any students seen engaging in it will be placed in seclusion. We kindly ask you to speak with your child about the dangers of throwing ice snowballs before returning to school.

We look forward to welcoming all students back tomorrow and hope that everyone has a safe journey to school.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gemma Earles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Mrs Gemma Earles
Principal