

THE LONG EATON SCHOOL

A Foundation School and
A Specialist College for Science and Applied Learning
"An Outstanding School" (OFSTED 2006, 2009)

The Long Eaton School
Thoresby Road
Long Eaton
Nottingham
NG10 3NP



Science



APPLIED
LEARNING



Eco Schools



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



NC/tb – 8 January 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are aware, school was closed on Wednesday this week due to the adverse weather conditions. The decision to close school is one which is never taken lightly, but whilst there was only a relatively small amount of snow in Long Eaton, compared to other areas of the country, I am sure that you will appreciate that there are a number of factors to be considered in these circumstances. Access to the school via local, untreated, roads can quickly become very difficult even for those who live nearby, but another major issue for us is establishing whether enough staff, many of whom live some distance from school, will be able to reach school to ensure that students can be adequately and safely supervised. It seems as though more disruption may be likely over the coming week, but please rest assured that we will do our best to remain open whenever possible, and will continue to follow guidance from the Local Authority.

I am grateful for the positive feedback that I have received from some parents about our use of the text and email service to inform you about the closure. In the event of another decision being taken to close, we will follow the same procedure, which should give you the earliest possible indication of the situation. Once texts and emails have been sent, we will also contact local radio stations and update our website and answer phone message as soon as possible. However, please note that **we will not send any message if school is open** – unless you hear to the contrary via one of these channels, please send your child to school as normal.

The next few weeks offer an additional challenge as public examinations begin on Monday, and although there would be opportunities to re-sit any missed papers during the summer session, this could put students at a disadvantage. Consequently, we will endeavour to open up at least some parts of the school every day, regardless of whether a more general closure is in place, to allow examinations to continue, and we will confirm this in any message that is sent out. We are all aware of the importance of the GCSE and A Level papers for which students have been preparing for some time, although I would ask that you ensure that neither you nor your child attempts a journey to school which might put your safety at risk.

Finally, I would like to ask for your support with two issues during the cold weather. Whilst we do not intend to relax our uniform policy because of snow and ice, I would encourage you to ensure that your son or daughter travels to and from school in suitable outdoor clothing. It was quite a surprise to be stood at the gate yesterday in temperatures below -4°C and be met by students not wearing a coat. We are more than happy for students to wear boots or other similar footwear for their journey, although we will of course expect them to change into appropriate school shoes once they arrive into school. I am also very worried by reports of students walking on the frozen canal, and would appreciate any efforts you can make to add to our own warnings about the extreme danger of this behaviour.

As ever, I hope that all our precautions and contingency plans will prove to be unnecessary, and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr N Calvert
Headteacher

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