

Winter 2017

Our Ref: SJF

To: Parents

Dear Parents

Adverse Weather Procedures

I am writing in respect of the arrangements should this winter necessitate any school closures. We will, as in previous years, keep parents fully informed by placing up-to-date information on the school website, www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk. We shall also be using the local radio to convey information and generally we use Radio City and Radio Merseyside.

Outlined below are some of the procedures we shall follow, although they may vary depending on circumstances:-

1. If a heavy overnight snowfall causes significant disruption and danger for students and staff travelling to school, then a decision will be made early in the morning to close the school. Notification will be posted on the school website and the radio stations will be informed. Should any students not see or hear our notification of closure and arrive at school, then we will look after them and make contact with parents.
2. Previously, we have had to close the school during the day with students on site. In this instance, students will go to their Form base and make contact with parents via mobile phones or school phones and this will be supervised by their Form Tutor. When we are happy that arrangements have been made and parents are comfortable with children either being collected, or making their own way home, then they will be allowed to leave the school premises. **It is important that students have a parent's emergency contact number for these special circumstances** and you may wish to discuss a plan/arrangements for such an eventuality with your child. We will not be letting students home during the school day unless we have made contact with parents and you can be assured that we will make arrangements to ensure these students are looked after, pending parents either collecting children or making other arrangements for relatives etc to get to the school.

Sixth Form students will be sent home first and we will not be attempting to make parental contact for these senior students. We will also be allowing Sixth Form students to escort siblings home from lower school year groups.

In the past, all the school buses and indeed the whole transport system on the Wirral came to a halt after a heavy snowfall during the school day and I expect if we have to close during the school day again, there will be no public transport available for students.

3. In relation to re-opening, parents are requested to visit the school website on a regular basis where information will be posted.

General Information Regarding School Closure

Decisions in relation to school closure are made by myself, after taking due advice from the Local Authority and other sources and my prime concern is the safety and well-being of both students and staff. I can assure you that Weatherhead will only close when very exceptional circumstances make the safety issues of continuing to remain open a major concern.

In the event of school closure during a period of public examinations, a decision will be made as to whether it is deemed safe enough to partially open the school. Consideration will also be given as to whether it is safe enough for students to get to school to sit their examinations. Again, all details will be posted on the school website, we do have to be prepared for such exceptional circumstances.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, I should be grateful if you would contact the school and we will try to address any concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely

A Whelan
Headteacher