



Shelley College

A SPECIALIST CENTRE FOR SCIENCE

"Excellence and Enjoyment"

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Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

January 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

We thought it would be useful to explain the procedures in place for making a decision whether to close the school. We have received many comments, the majority of which were favourable, about our response to the poor weather and the recent leak. However, we recognise that a small number of parents have been concerned and we hope this explanation clarifies our position.

The decision to close the school is not an easy one. It is made by the headteacher, who has to balance the priority to educate students with the absolute need to maintain their safety and welfare. It is also better to make this decision early, to further reduce the risk to students and staff if the journey could be dangerous. To date, the decision has been made following the site reports taken in the evening and very early in the morning or because conditions have prevented the vast majority of people getting into the College.

All but one recent closure have been because the overwhelming majority of students and a small majority of staff have been unable to get in to school. This meant supervision of students would have been inadequate and parents were clearly finding the journey too dangerous. Public transport also stopped running and, in a school where students rely heavily on buses, the risks to safety could not be ignored.

The decision to partially open on Monday, 18th January 2010 was made because we had insufficient water to flush toilets, provide hot water or to provide water for catering. Contingency plans were made but it was clear that to open the school fully would have overwhelmed the supply and our ability to use other measures. The risk to health was unacceptable. We worked with Kirklees Local Authority to fix the problem and were able to fully open ahead of schedule.

Everybody at Shelley is keen to minimise disruption and parents should be assured we will do our utmost to remain open and to ensure the impact on students' learning is kept to a minimum.

Finally, a number of parents enquired about whether we could provide work on-line. Such work is available via the College website (on Moodle). We therefore ask you to encourage your son or daughter to use these resources if we have to close again.

Yours sincerely

Alwyn Cooper – Chair of Governors

John McNally - Headteacher