

**King George Avenue  
Ilkeston  
Derbyshire  
DE7 5HS**

**0115 9303724**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear families,

I wanted to write and thank you for your understanding regarding the school closures due to adverse weather. Closing the school is never a decision we take lightly as we fully appreciate the inconvenience it can cause. I will always endeavour to be as transparent as possible and articulate the rationale behind such decisions so you can better understand the reasoning.

The school closure today was necessary because:

- The conditions on school site were dangerous due to the persistent snow experienced, despite the best efforts of our wonderful site team. As you know our school site is vast and it simply wasn't possible to ensure all walkways and communal areas were free of snow and safe to use.
- Many of the local roads were unsafe with snow continuing to fall at the time students, parents and staff would be commuting to school.
- The local footpaths had not been cleared and remained a hazard for the vast majority of our students who walk to school.
- Many of our staff travel in from the surrounding region where snow fall has been more significant and couldn't get into school. In addition to this, many primary schools had closed creating childcare issues.

The health and safety of all members of the school community will always be my first priority. In this instance (and with the early school closure yesterday) I felt I had little other option but to close the school. I am aware the other local schools also closed as the safety issues outlined were not limited to OIEA.

On a separate note, the next dates for industrial action are Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of March. In line with previous communication, the school will be closed on these dates except for year 11 students who will continue their exam preparation and coursework completion.

Thank you again for your understanding and please accept my apologies for any inconvenience caused. Teachers are wanting to make a stand to improve the future of education and ensure that OIEA continues to move from strength to strength.

Warm regards,



Mr Simon Leach  
Principal