



Dear Parent/Carer

Due to ongoing issues with our heating system, we have taken the decision to close the school at 3.15pm tomorrow, Wednesday 18/12/24. We have done our very best to 'keep on keeping on' over the last couple of weeks as you are all aware and this is not a decision we have made lightly, but our rationale is as follows:

- There are 3 leaks in the system causing the heating to fail.
- The location of these leaks means that potentially the main corridor may have to be excavated and, whether it does or not, there is, of course, in a building of this age, the potential for asbestos, which then leads to other complications.
- Due to the age of all the pipework, there is potential for further work being required during the leak repairs.
- It is VITAL that we are open on January 06/01/25 in full working order for staff training and to support the external examinations also commencing that week. Part of our rationale for closing early is to try and ensure this happens, but rest assured, as soon as we know the outcome of the repair work, we will be in touch with you towards the end of the Christmas holiday.

The Plan For The Next 3 Days

Wed 18/12/24:

- This will be a normal school day but **non-uniform** to allow the students to feel that they have had a typical Christmassy end to the term!
- P5 Wednesday 18/12/24 will be with form tutors so that they can explain expectations for the following 2 days and give out the rewards that would usually happen during our 'rewards assemblies'.

Thurs 19/12/24 & Fri 20/12/24:

- All students must check in with their form tutor during usual tutor time via BROMCOM/MCAS Student Portal which will be explained to students via a powerpoint presentation during P5 on Wednesday 18/12/24. This powerpoint will also be available to students on the 'Community Hub' part of the school website.
- If students have not checked in with tutors by 9.30am you, as parents/carers will be notified via text and asked to contact thirskschool@thirskschool.org regarding the whereabouts/wellbeing of your child. If we have not heard back from you by 11.00am a member of staff will contact you by telephone. ***It is really important that you ensure your child 'registers' during morning registration on both Thurs 19/12/24 and Fri 20/12/24.***
- All work can be found via BROMCOM/MCAS Student Portal homework tab for students to access over the two days – all students are aware as to how to access this. Please do get in touch with andrew.ward@thirskschool.org as soon as possible if your child does not have access to a mobile device/computer for Thurs and Fri of this week. Likewise, if they are struggling to log into BROMCOM/MCAS Student Portal please email jenny.crabtree@thirskschool.org



School will be offering an alternative venue in Thirsk for a small group of students, based on priority needs, who will be contacted directly about this. But, if you have not been contacted regarding this by tomorrow morning and feel that this is something your child could benefit from please email thirskschool@thirskschool.org by 12.00pm Wednesday 18/12/24 to enquire further. However, I MUST stress that we cannot open this up to a wide number of students and consequently numbers are very limited.

If you are entitled to Free School Meals please expect an e-voucher to arrive in your inbox, covering both days, by 8.00am Thurs 19/12/24.

And Finally...

It is sad to think that this is the last letter of the term! But we can assure you that our usual, more uplifting, newsletter will be back in circulation as soon as we return to school after the Christmas holiday – so next half term you will get two for the price of one!

We would like to thank you for your support regarding the current situation and wish you all both a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Best wishes
Emma Lambden
Headteacher