



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

8th January 2010

Dear Parents,

This has certainly been an unusual and challenging week to begin the term. For the first time in 17 years, weather forced the school to close. Parents, pupils, and staff have worked together brilliantly to make sure our school opened again on Thursday. I want to pay particular tribute to our drivers, our maintenance team, our administrative team and all the pupils and staff who have made exceptional efforts to come to school, often from very far away. The commitment implicit in such efforts is inspirational and is eloquent testimony to the importance they place on learning and school. Today 80% of pupils and more than 95% of staff are teaching, learning and working. There is even a ripple of excitement in school today because of the unusual conditions.

Geographers have been given a "teaching moment". They are teaching pupils about the weather patterns which have led to our current predicament and explaining why, despite the snow outside, the earth is actually getting warmer.

Next week looks a little encouraging. Temperatures may rise and a thaw may begin this weekend.

Here are a few important announcements about school next week:

- All exams will go ahead. If your child is sitting GCSE Science or A Level modular examinations, make sure that they understand that the examinations will go ahead. We are in the happy position of having had lessons with most pupils who are sitting these exams this week. Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 pupils must make every effort to come into school. Because of the exams and because of the weather forecast, it is highly unlikely that the school will be closed next week at any time. Even if school is closed for other pupils, exams will go ahead.
- We will continue until further notice to observe our NO UNIFORM-OWN CLOTHES and MAKE SURE YOU ARE WARM AND WEAR SOLID SHOES policy. This will be in effect until the campus is clear of ice entirely and the temperature is consistently above freezing. I will email you again when we have decided that pupils should come to school in full uniform.
- We will aim to have a regular school day on Monday, with school beginning at 8:30 and finishing at 4:00 (3.30 in Pre-Prep). We hope to be able to operate our after school activities and clubs. Gates will continue to be closed if there is ice in the car parks.
- On Monday, in the Upper School there will be house meetings, but no all school assembly.
- Prep School and Upper School Outdoor activities may be cancelled if the ice and snow persist. We will post such cancellations on our website.
- **We will confirm arrangements for a regular school day at 06.00 on Monday, January 11. If there are any changes, we will post them on our website at that time.**
- All our sport fixtures this weekend have been cancelled.

I hope next week will see a return to full school life: all lessons taught, high attendance rates, and a full programme of sport and activities.

Thank you for your cooperation and support during these challenging days.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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