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Headteacher: Mr A Oliver, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH

7th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

**RE: School Closure - Site Safety Update**

I understand that it may be surprising to see no snow on the ground and yet learn that the decision was taken to close the school today. Unfortunately, conditions on site this morning were extremely hazardous due to rain that fell overnight and then froze.

Cars were sliding around the car park, a delivery van crashed, staff were struggling to walk safely from their cars to the building, and the student pathway from the gates at the bottom of the driveway to the main building was covered in sheet ice. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to grit the site sufficiently to ensure it was safe to open the school.

I apologise that the decision was not communicated until after 7:30am. The severity of the conditions in Whitworth was not fully apparent until I arrived on site. Whitworth does have its own microclimate, with conditions becoming progressively worse the further up Hall Street you travel.

In line with our policy, remote learning was not set today as this is the first day of closure. Should we need to close tomorrow, work will be set for all students via EduLink One. We are hopeful that this will not be necessary, as our site team will be gritting throughout the day and we have a clear plan in place to apply additional grit to the car park and pathways very early tomorrow morning.

Please note that Wednesday detentions will be moved to Thursday (hopefully affecting very few students), as will the assemblies that were scheduled to take place this morning.

Students are advised to wear suitable footwear tomorrow, such as hiking boots. Please note that trainers are not considered suitable footwear. As always, students should also wear a warm coat to school; however, hoodies are not permitted.

I am sorry again for the inconvenience caused by today's closure and appreciate that this will have been disruptive for families. Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to make the site safe for reopening tomorrow. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr A Oliver'.

Mr A Oliver  
Headteacher



The Brilliant Club



The Scholars Programme

