



10th May 2018

Dear Parents

Thank you for your messages of support and encouragement about the new school opening and the financial challenges we face. We are all disappointed that Interserve have had to delay the opening of the new school by five academic days according to the original schedule. The Local Authority and Interserve are acutely aware of the delay and they are working very hard to complete the build.

Once the school had received this information from the Local Authority, we took the decision to inform parents straight away. This is because we knew we had to now develop a plan to deal with the delay and also as families, we knew you would want this information for your own planning.

We are now going to put a plan together so that we can manage the delay and also look at other risks. The plan will look at:-

- Revising our learning programmes and schemes of work to make sure all courses are covered in the time we have.
- Re-design our lesson planning and resources.
- Re-schedule our learning calendar for 2018-2019 to make the most of each day so that we can meet the needs of all learners, recognising the five days we did not have at the start of the academic year.
- Plan for the use of IT platforms and other resources to provide a continuum in learning.
- Work with the LA and Interserve to make the most of the accommodation we have through the process.
- Develop plans with the Local Authority in relation to other risks.

Knowing well in advance that there is a delay of five academic days allows us to plan and re-think our year. We have some wriggle room and there are things we can do differently. (We had already thought about the fact of what would happen if the building was delayed.)

As many of you know we are creative and flexible about the way we manage our academic year, over and beyond the published timetable. For example, we already promote Year 9 after Whitsun to the next academic stage rather than waiting to start exam courses in September; we put on catch-up sessions after school and during the school half-term breaks for students; we collapse timetables to put on revision and guidance sessions immediately before an examination. There is much we can do to be creative with the time we have been given.



We are also aware that the move of a large school is no small undertaking. We have to allow a minimum of three weeks to physically move the school, this is less than other schools have allowed but we are confident with the level of planning we have in place that we can move the school in three weeks. This means that the summer holidays afford the best opportunity for us to physically move the school with the minimum disruption to the school year.

Once we have developed our plans with the staff, LA and Interserve, we will publish them to all students and parents. We understand that as students and parents you will want to know these plans as soon as possible. What we do not want to do after five years of hard work of careful planning and development is to come to some quick decisions that have the possibility of undoing all that we have worked so hard to achieve.

Once the plans have been agreed by Governors they will be published on our website.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement. It really is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

R Vaughan Davies
Headteacher