



Friday 7th November 2019

RE: Science Block

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to keep you informed of an unfortunate development with our Science Block. Over the last few months we have been working with Wokingham Borough Council to upgrade the heating system across the site. In October, work began to completely replace all heating in the Science Block; it was initially anticipated that this work would last for two weeks. Once engineers began, they discovered that the work required is significantly greater than they had anticipated. As a result, the building is now without any heating and it will take, at most, six weeks to complete the required works.

In consultation with WBC, we have agreed to vacate the building entirely, for two reasons:

1. Leaving the building empty will give engineers the ability to work faster, therefore reducing the period of disruption.
2. Given the scale of the works, there could be health and safety concerns if students and staff were in the building while the works were carried out.

Our first priority is to ensure that this disruption has no negative impact on learning in science lessons. In order to ensure the best possible experience for students, we will be re-rooming our science lessons into appropriate teaching spaces. As much as possible we will keep teachers in the same rooms. As you will understand, losing a building is a challenge (though we do have recent experience of managing more significant disruption during the construction of the English and Maths Blocks). The Science Department will be working hard to ensure that the quality of lessons is maintained and students are able to complete programmes of study without negative impact.

I am very grateful for the flexibility and 'can do' spirit shown by the science teachers and technicians, who are being supported by the whole staff. Students will be issued with new timetables during registration on Monday morning which will indicate room changes – these changes will impact a number of subjects and classes, not just science lessons. Once we are through the disruption we will have a building with modern and effective heating.

Unrelated to this development but of interest I hope, following feedback from the School Council, we have repaired all of the water fountains. In the coming weeks we will pilot a new style fountain that can be used to fill water bottles.

If you have any concerns about this, or any aspects of school life, please do contact me. My team and I can only resolve issues that we are aware of.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher