

Principal: Mrs J Lowry-Johnson BA (Hons)

9th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

After careful consideration given the current weather conditions and the forecast again overnight due to drop to -8 degrees. I have taken the decision to remain closed tomorrow, Friday 10 January 2025. We are confident that given the forecast on Sunday, we will reopen at the normal time of 8.30am on Monday 13th January.

The site team have again been working relentlessly all day to clear as much snow as possible with the snow plough and the ice that has formed underneath it on our back yard, as this is one of our main walkways between lessons. They are making every effort to then brush away the excess water formed so that they can lay grit to reduce black ice forming on there this evening. They have already spent 6 hours today on this area and have managed to clear $\frac{3}{4}$ of the yard area. However, this has meant that fresh snowfall on our car parks, footpaths and the quad area are still yet to be cleared due to the huge task at hand and the size of the site.

We really are making every effort to ensure that the grounds are cleared, but we are not confident that within the next two hours before darkness hits, that the school grounds can be cleared fully and deemed safe for staff and students tomorrow given the freezing temperatures we are experiencing. This will mean that we will continue to clear the grounds on Friday and throughout the weekend, ready for Monday as the temperatures rise.

I have once again driven around the surrounding areas close to the academy and the conditions of the footpaths where the snow has hardened and turned to ice again are in my opinion, only going to get worse overnight, as are the side roads where grit will not be spread.

I think that we can all agree that this has been an extremely difficult week, and I know it has not been an ideal start to the Spring term for anyone, parents/carers, staff and students alike, but safety really is our number one priority above anything else.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local community for your understanding and support this week, it has meant a lot. I do send my apologies in advance to parents and carers if this week has given you lockdown vibes all over again with your children at home. We promise to take them back off your hands on Monday and look forward to seeing them.

Once again, all lessons that were due to be taught will continue to be uploaded to Teams along with the necessary resources. If your child requires a password reset, then please email passwordassist@ocacademy.co.uk, this will then be reset by a member of our IT team.

Thank you for your ongoing support in these difficult circumstances. We will see all students on their return to the academy on Monday at 8.30am.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Lowry-Johnson
Principal

'We will make the biggest difference to the lives of all our students by laying the foundations to encourage a successful future'

Originality Community Aspiration Excellence Respect