

Principal: Mrs J Lowry-Johnson BA (Hons)

8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

After careful consideration given the current weather conditions and the forecast again overnight due to drop to -5 degrees. I have taken the decision to remain closed tomorrow, Thursday 9 January 2025.

The site team have been working relentlessly all day to try and improve the grounds using a snow plough and have been gritting, but this has been to no avail.

Earlier my Site Manager and I walked along Liverpool Road, and I have also driven around the surroundings area close to the academy and the conditions of the footpaths are what I deem, in places, treacherous.

The issue we are facing at Chadwick is that we have three buildings, and for students to move between lessons, they must move between the buildings via our outside quad area or around the outside of the building via the yard. These two main areas are simply put, like an ice rink despite our best efforts. The rainfall and hail this week have washed away the grit that was spread across all areas of the grounds, this has then frozen, and the snowfall we have seen has trapped the ice below.

It is not a decision I have taken lightly, but I do have to consider the safety of over 1000 students and staff at the academy, this includes travel to and from the academy as well as conditions onsite at the academy.

When completing a risk assessment and deciding whether the grounds are safe, I also naturally put my 'mum hat' on and consider, would I have my own son on these grounds and risk him slipping and banging his head resulting in injury or worse? and the answer is no. Therefore, I will not put any other parent or carers child at risk in this situation or indeed any staff members.

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](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Lowry-Johnson  
Principal  
For and on behalf of Ormiston Chadwick Academy

*'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

