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Principal Alan Salt

1st November 2023

Dear Parent and Carer and Student,

School Closure: Thursday 2 November

I hope this message finds you well.

This week we have been closely following weather updates regarding Storm Ciaran. Our school area is currently in an Amber weather warning for strong winds, peaking tomorrow morning.

We have carried out a thorough risk assessment of our sites. We have looked closely at the specific challenges of different parts of our site, including buildings and trees, roofing, and window and door fittings.

This afternoon we have received advice from Devon County Council that all non-essential travel should not take place. Their advice is included at the end of this letter.

This potential risk to life means that we have taken the regrettable decision to **close the school to all students tomorrow, Thursday 2 November.**

This means no students should attend the school site for any reason.

We do not do this lightly, but safety of students and staff must be our priority.

Students will be able to access work set by their usual class teachers via Bromcom (My Child at School). This work will be set as homework, and will be titled School Closure Work for ease of reference.

Our online Y7 tutor evening appointments will run as planned, although there may be disruption if internet services are affected.

If you have any safeguarding concerns about a young person during tomorrow, you should contact either Sam Battershall or Helen Fraser at the email address below or via 01803 869200 ext 4062.

School will be open as usual to all students on Friday 3 November.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt'.

Alan Salt
Principal

“RE: AMBER WEATHER WARNING – RISK TO LIFE

As you are aware there is currently an amber weather warning in place as storm Ciaran moves towards Devon. An amber warning presents a risk to life, but there is also a large amount of uncertainty about this weather front which means it could increase to a red warning overnight. The combination of wind, rain, and the storm moving over warm sea waters increases risk of very high wind speeds, flooding and trees falling.

An emergency strategy meeting has taken place today and it was agreed that we need to ensure school leaders fully appreciate that the current weather warning presents a risk to life and could worsen.

Based on the information we have, Devon County Council have taken the decision today to ask all staff where possible to work from home.

We are asking all schools to consider the high level of risk presented by this storm and make a decision today about their operations tomorrow