

20th October 2017

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your support this morning following the closure of the Orwell Bridge due to a tragic accident on the A14; our thoughts are with the families of those involved.

I did not take lightly the decision to delay the start of the school day but I knew that we would have problems with staff getting to work as I was near the incident at 6.30 a.m. and the police told me that the road would be closed for a few hours. The staff who regularly get to work very early were on the A14 just behind me and a large proportion of our staff take this route to work.

Following a message to staff at 7.00 a.m., everyone endeavoured to get to work earlier but the surrounding roads and town became gridlocked. We would not have had enough staff to safely open the school on time for all students. By 8.30 a.m., we had enough staff to accommodate students whose parents/carers were unable to make last minute childcare arrangements and year 11 students for independent study. I thought it best to inform you early so that you could make any necessary arrangements. I apologise sincerely for any inconvenience caused. We tried our very best to manage this situation with the information that we had at hand but if you have any feedback it would be gratefully received.

On another note, we have had a really positive start to the academic year. Our students continue to make good progress, we have launched a varied extra-curricular programme and we had a fantastic year 6 open evening. Next half-term we will be working with the students to develop our rewards scheme and our student ambassador programme. Our next Parent Focus meeting will be on Wednesday 15th November at 9.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.. It would be great to see you there.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. It makes a big difference.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Winn
Principal