

Dear Parents and Carers

Impact of Icelandic volcanic ash – partial closure

The travel crisis created by the current flight ban over most of Europe has placed the school in an unprecedented situation. Schools around the country will all be suffering in some way with students or staff unable to return to the UK. However, those schools, like Bournville, with foreign visits arranged to take place over the Easter holiday are placed under extra strain. 58 of our students and 8 of our staff are still on the school trip in America and their flight home has been delayed.

Unfortunately, due to the extra burden of the 8 staff still in America, added to others caught up in the crisis, we are currently unable fully to open the school. Clearly our priority is those students sitting external exams in a few weeks time. It is therefore necessary to have a partial closure of the school as follows:

- The school remains **open** for all students in Y13, 12, 11, 10 and 9
- The school is closed for students in Y8 on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st April, but will be **open** for them on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd.
- The school is **open** for students in Y7 on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st April, but will be closed for them on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd.

It is unfortunate to have to take this decision but these arrangements are the best in the current situation.

Please bear in mind that it is even difficult to cover staff who are off sick at the moment because of the increased demand for agency staff from all schools, added to the fact that the agency staff may themselves be unavailable due to the crisis.

The American Trip

The situation of the group is very good as the travel company has been excellent in their care and support, guaranteeing provision for them until the flight home. Parents/carers of students on this trip can ring school, during our usual opening hours, for updates on the situation as well as checking the school website where there is up to date information and an emergency contact number. We are also making provision for the students' continuing education as half of them have exams to prepare for.

May I thank you for your support in this situation. We know that many families are themselves affected by the current difficulties and, if this is your situation, we wish you a speedy resolution to the problem.

Yours faithfully

Steve Clark
Deputy Headteacher