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Headteacher:
Simon Hill BSc MA NPQH

SJH/JY

5th February 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: School Closure – Thursday 5th February 2009

I have just made the decision to close the school and send our students and staff home. I realise this will cause you yet more inconvenience. I apologise for this. As a parent of three school-aged children myself, I know what difficulties such emergency childcare can cause.

Last night (Wednesday) the forecast for around Darton and region anticipated light snow today. This morning (at 6.00 am) when I made the decision to open as normal the major roads were all clear, public transport was running normally and the forecast was still for no more than light snow.

By the time I got to school (7.00 am) that situation was changing and by the end of Period 1 (9.50 am) we were getting messages of difficulties on roads. The latest forecasts (10.00 am) are now far worse and I have just heard that our neighbour schools are also closing this lunchtime. This is why I have made the difficult decision to close Darton High School again.

I hope this letter helps you appreciate that I don't take this decision lightly. To some extent we're damned if we do and damned if we don't.

My first priority is the safety and welfare of your children.

As for tomorrow, firstly, we will make a tentative decision late tonight and I'll make a final decision at 6.00 am tomorrow morning.

As always that information will be immediately phoned to Dearne FM, Radio Sheffield and Radio Hallam. We will always update our phone message (but that is difficult to get through to when many are trying) and our website (www.dartonhigh.org).

With very best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

S Hill
Headteacher



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