

KLA School Closure

KLA CLOSURE OWING TO WATER SUPPLY FAILURE – Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 only

(Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September initially)

Dear parents & carers,

As you may well have heard from your child(ren), we have had a major issue this afternoon with the water supply to our main school building. Although I am certainly not someone who understands how the intricacies of our system work, I am told we have suffered a major failure of the pump system that pushes water to our toilets, taps, sinks and heating. We have had a team of engineers on-site all afternoon who have tried several temporary solutions, but unfortunately without success. We have just about managed to get through the afternoon by asking pupils and staff to use the single set of unaffected toilets which are in our Sports Hall fed by a completely separate water system, and the sensible, cheerful response of every one of our pupils has been brilliant.

However, those Sports Hall toilets have only 6 cubicles in total – and that simply isn't enough to provide a solution for any longer than a couple of hours. I cannot legally open the school without clean running water, fully functioning toilets or the ability to meet health and safety standards in the canteen. Therefore, I am afraid I am going to have to very reluctantly close the school on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September to all pupils apart from those in Year 11 until this issue is repaired or the pumps replaced. We will take our learning provision online from tomorrow, and initially work for pupils will be set either on Arbor, Sparx Maths or the school website – more precise information will follow tomorrow morning. If the closure lasts longer than these two days, we will return to teaching lessons through Teams channels to ensure that no learning momentum is lost. Forward Step and CUB will also be open for our vulnerable pupils who have access to those provisions.

Whilst we have lost 80% of our water supply, we still have just enough to manage for a single year group and it seems obvious that this should be Year 11, to ensure that their GCSE preparation is not interrupted. We expect therefore to see all Year 11 pupils in school tomorrow and Thursday as usual at 8.30 a.m.; please be aware that it is not possible to open the canteen without any water, so we will be unable to provide any food service at all (unfortunately this includes free school meals). Pupils should bring their own snacks and a packed lunch. School bus transport will run for Year 11 / vulnerable pupils as usual.

I am very aware that this is not an ideal situation and thank you in advance for your support and patience whilst we try to find our way to a solution. If you have any queries please email me at alan.fletcher@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk and I will do my best to answer them – although I will do my best to keep parents updated to the fullest possible extent – as soon as I have anything to share I will share it with you!

With sincere thanks and apologies for the inconvenience this must necessarily cause for some of our families.

Alan Fletcher