

22nd October 2013

Dear parents/carers

School closure – Wednesday 23rd October 2013

We have identified an issue with ‘false widow’ spiders in the academy in our ICT block yesterday afternoon and therefore took immediate advice from pest control. We therefore made the decision to close the ICT block for the whole of today so that pest control could fumigate the area. Unfortunately, during this afternoon there have been further ‘false widow’ spiders identified in other areas of the academy. We have taken advice from the Health and Safety unit at Gloucestershire Local Authority and C & D Pest Control, Chepstow and have taken the decision to close the academy all day on Wednesday 23rd October 2013. This will enable pest control to fumigate every area in the academy and ensure everyone’s health and safety. The Health and Safety unit and pest control feel that we have dealt with the matter quickly and efficiently and taken appropriate early action. There have been no reports of anyone being bitten by the ‘false widow’ spiders at the academy but if you have any concerns please seek medical advice.

Any pre-planned meetings, sports fixtures or extra-curricular activities will not take place. The academy will be open as normal on Thursday 24th October 2013.

If you would like to read anything further regarding the ‘false widow’ spider please read the following website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/uk/indepth/spider-facts.shtml>

Please accept my sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may cause you but I’m sure you will understand that this is in the best interest of students’ health and safety.

Yours sincerely

Craig Burns
Vice Principal