

Dear Parent/Carer

You will probably be aware of the extreme warning for South West England, issued today by the Met Office, which is forecasting extremely strong winds overnight and into Friday.

Storm Eunice, as this weather front is known, will be coming in overnight. Whilst winds will increase in velocity from 3 am tomorrow, the strongest winds for Ivybridge are forecast to occur between 9 am and 12 noon tomorrow, when gusts of up to 80 mph may be experienced locally. Winds will drop from around the time that College finishes tomorrow, but speeds are likely to remain very high at 50 - 60mph until 9 pm Friday night.

At this time, it is our intention for the College to remain open tomorrow but we will be monitoring weather conditions closely and respond accordingly on any advice received by the Local Authority and the Westcountry Schools Trust. Families will be kept updated through our website, email and social media should we need to respond to a worsening situation.

If your child uses the Devon County Council Transport service please check that the bus is running by visiting: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport>

If your child uses the College bus service, please check the College website and we will notify you of any changes as soon as possible.

If you are dropping off/collecting your child tomorrow, please take extra care on the roads, and particularly around pedestrians and cyclists. The Met Office have some clear advice for those travelling in wind.

Please reinforce some key but simple reminders to your child to help them stay safe on their way to and from school tomorrow, including:

- Take extra care when walking near roads, as sudden gusts can easily blow pedestrians sideways and into roads
- Be particularly vigilant when crossing roads and be aware that conditions for motorists are very challenging
- Be aware of flying debris in high winds
- Do not shelter under trees or buildings where debris may fall in high winds
- Make sure you wear a coat and are appropriately dressed for the weather

Our Premises Team are making preparations to ensure that the site is as safe as possible for the weather conditions. Students will be instructed to stay inside the College buildings during Break 1 and Break 2 tomorrow if the winds are as strong as anticipated. This will not impact on ability to access food and drink throughout the day.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson

**Principal**