

12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Dear Parents

As you are no doubt aware Brantwood School is closing this Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February. This is tragic news for the 130 girls and their families as they now need to be rehoused as quickly as possible. Sheffield High, Ashdell and Westbourne have all offered support and we are dealing with a great deal of enquiries.

Please be assured that we will endeavour to maintain our maximum class sizes. Our recent expansion in January from three classes of sixteen in Year 8, to four classes of thirteen, is evidence of our desire to maintain low pupil to teacher ratios.

You may well be wondering about the financial state of Westbourne and want to know if this situation could have happened to us. My answer to this is simply that we have a strong business platform, and a variety of business skills on our board of governors. Our bursar, Mr Heald, is first class and our continued expansion in spite of a recession ideally gives us a positive footing in a competitive market.

The reputation of Westbourne as a caring school is also further enhanced and I have total confidence in our community and its ability to welcome and support the new girls and their families in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John B. Hichy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'H'.