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Headteacher: Mr E Rodriguez MA BSc (Hons)

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16 April 2015

Dear Parents

The open-air swimming pool at Oathall has been a significant feature of the college's facilities for more than fifty years. Parents, pupils and staff laboured to complete the original construction and it has been enjoyed by many generations of young people since. The costs of running such a facility has increased notably over the years and across the country school pools have closed as they have ceased to remain economically viable. Although only open for a few months of the year, the generosity of parents, through their voluntary contributions, has enabled Oathall to sustain the facility.

Over the years, changes to health and safety legislation have resulted in increased financial burdens and logistical concerns. The governors have sought to meet these demands through various means including seeking funding and grants from sponsors and other organisations. However, as facilities in Haywards Heath have been improved our capacity to generate income has declined and this has placed an increasing pressure on the school budget share.

Further legislative changes demand that significant works need to be undertaken to the pool in order to remain compliant. These, unsurprisingly, will come at great cost to the school. We are led to the conclusion that the commitment of such large amounts of money would be an inappropriate diversion of the school's financial resources and we are of the opinion that the students' experience at Oathall might be better served by targeting our expenditure in other areas. The Governors believe they have exhausted all means of securing sustainable external funding and as a result it is with great regret we have made the decision to close the Oathall pool with immediate effect.

You will appreciate that this has been a very difficult decision to make and we understand that this may be disappointing to many of you. We remain committed to addressing the issues of non-swimmers in the college and are working to secure opportunities with our local providers to ensure facilities are available as part of our formal sport curriculum.

We would like to assure you that we remain committed to developing an environment where our students can enjoy the best possible sporting facilities. Our outdoor facilities, already enhanced by the addition of our outstanding ATP and Dance Studio, will be complemented by a refurbishment of the college sports hall this summer. In addition, we are actively exploring further additions to the college campus that will augment our facilities even further.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs R Chalk**  
Chair of Governors