



Dear Parents and Carers,

6th December 2023

Re: The Kimberley School swimming pool

Over the last twelve months we have worked closely with Broxtowe Borough Council and Liberty Leisure Ltd in the face of soaring costs associated with running the swimming pool. Broxtowe Borough Council have today informed us that they are unable to fund the increased hire rate that is required to cover these costs in order to extend the existing agreement which runs out on 31st March 2024. Very sadly, this means that the swimming pool will have to close from that date.

The Kimberley School Sports Centre has operated at a very considerable loss that will amount to £300,000 by the end of the current agreement (31/03/24). There are two main reasons that force the decision to close the swimming pool:

Firstly, the running costs of the swimming pool have soared; utility costs (electricity, gas and water) have doubled and there is no sign of these costs reducing significantly in the future. Inflationary pressures have affected all other costs such as salaries, maintenance service costs and chemical supplies for the pool. There have also been significant additional costs for repairs to the ageing pool plant and the likelihood of more in the future.

Secondly, the amount of investment needed to bring the swimming pool and wider environment up to a modern and much more efficient standard is prohibitive, conservatively estimated at £2.4 million pounds in a recent condition survey. Corroding cast iron pipes and widespread encasement in asbestos make this an incredibly expensive prospect and therefore not financially viable.

A set of FAQs providing further information is available on the school website via <https://www.kimberleyschool.co.uk/sportscentreswimmingpool>

What does this mean for the rest of the Sports Centre?

All parties are working together to explore the option of continuing to operate the gym and fitness classes at the site beyond 31/03/24 but it remains unclear whether this will be viable. Community members, clubs and teams who hire the Sports Hall, Studio 1, gymnasium and any of the pitches will be unaffected by this decision as these will continue to be available for hire (alongside other facilities in the school) through the [schoolhire.co.uk](https://www.schoolhire.co.uk) link on the school website as normal.

I am sorry that this decision has had to be made and you can understand from the reasons above why it is unavoidable for the school. We cannot afford to continue to keep the swimming pool open nor provide the capital investment this 'end of life' pool needs.

Yours faithfully

Andy Park

Head Teacher