

9 February 2010
ARW/JL

Dear Parents and Guardians

Gillygate Gas Main Renewal Works: Partial Closure of Gillygate

As you may be aware, from recent notices on our website or from the local Press, Northern Gas Networks Ltd have announced that they will be carrying out gas main renewal works in Gillygate, starting on 22nd February and lasting for about 6 weeks, i.e. for the whole of the next half term. We were recently notified that Gillygate would therefore be closed to through traffic for the whole of this period, except that the north east bound lane (i.e. from Bootham) would be kept open for access by residents, deliveries, etc., including access to Portland Street.

We have now met twice with Northern Gas's contractors, United Utilities and Morgan Est, to discuss ways by which the impact on our main Portland Street access could be mitigated. I am pleased to report that the scope of the works has now been reduced so that it will no longer be necessary to close the north east end of Gillygate, beyond Portland Street, thereby maintaining two-way traffic flow between Lord Mayor's Walk and Portland Street. Traffic will, however, still be prevented from turning right along Gillygate when exiting Portland Street, and we therefore intend to have the exit gate from the school site onto Bootham Square and Bootham Row open throughout the school day.

It is inevitable that the works will cause considerable traffic jams in the area, at least until drivers find alternative routes. There will be signed diversionary routes to avoid Gillygate altogether, but these are quite lengthy. If you normally drive your children to School, we recommend that you investigate different travel arrangements, by car sharing, public transport (details of both are on the school website), cycling or walking, if feasible (which support, of course, the aspirations of our Green Flag and 10:10 initiatives!). Alternatively, we have previously suggested dropping off students at the Union Terrace Car Park to the east (which should still be accessible) or Grosvenor Terrace / Bootham Crescent to the west, and persuading them to walk the last 100 metres to School. Please be careful to ensure that such a drop-off is safe for your children and other road users.

We will continue to liaise with Northern Gas and Morgan Est prior to and during these disruptive but essential works, to mitigate the traffic delays. Vehicle access to Bootham has never been easy – please do what you can to find alternative ways for your children to get to and from school – who knows, they may prefer it?!

Yours sincerely

Andy Woodland
Bursar