

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Update: Arrangements During the Red Extreme Heat Warning**

Since my communication this morning, the Met Office has increased the weather alert to a red warning for extreme heat for Wednesday and Thursday. Please do read the information below carefully, as it includes important updates about arrangements in school, after-school sport and swimming activities, and the Year 11 Prom.

Red warnings of this kind are very rare and are only issued when serious disruption is expected. We are therefore treating this as an exceptional weather event. The school will remain open at this stage, but we will not be operating as normal. We are putting additional, reasonable precautions in place to reduce students' exposure to heat, support vulnerable students and staff, and ensure that we can respond quickly if conditions change during the day.

Students should continue to attend school ready to learn, but they should expect some adjustments to routines, rooms, activities and movement around the site during the red warning period.

I appreciate that families are receiving a number of updates today, so I have included the key arrangements again below for ease of reference. These arrangements remain in place, alongside the additional precautions we are now taking in response to the red warning.

Students are not required to wear their tie or blazer, and we will continue to actively encourage them not to do so. Students should continue to wear their school shirt. As our school shirts are white cotton, we feel that these are likely to be the coolest option in the warm weather. Students may wear a short-sleeved shirt if they have one, or roll up their sleeves if this helps them to feel more comfortable.

To help students remain safe and comfortable, please can we ask that they:

- bring a named water bottle to school and drink water regularly throughout the day;
- wear a sun hat or cap when outside, where possible;
- apply sun cream before school and bring sun cream with them if they need to reapply it during the day;
- tie longer hair back if this helps them to stay cooler;
- use shaded areas during break and lunch, and avoid sitting in direct sun;
- speak to a member of staff straight away if they feel unwell, light-headed, dizzy, unusually tired, or develop a headache;
- bring a small handheld fan into school, if they wish, provided it is used sensibly and does not distract from learning.

Please do emphasise to your child the importance of drinking water regularly throughout the day. Water remains the best option for staying hydrated during the school day, and students should make use of opportunities to refill their bottles whenever needed. We have added additional hydration stations across the site to increase access to water.

Please also encourage your child to take care when travelling to and from school. This includes carrying water for the journey, avoiding standing in direct sun where possible, and letting an adult know if they feel unwell before, during or after travelling.

In response to the red warning, we will be taking additional steps to reduce students' exposure to the heat. These will include adapting PE and outdoor activities, minimising prolonged time outside, using shaded areas wherever possible, reducing unnecessary movement around the site, and relocating some lessons or activities to cooler areas of the building where this is practical.

We will also review arrangements for movement around the site, lunch and communal spaces so that we can reduce unnecessary crowding and heat exposure where possible.

Staff will continue to use blinds, windows and ventilation as appropriate to help keep rooms as cool as possible. As you will appreciate, we have limited air conditioning across the school, so we will keep arrangements under review throughout the day and make sensible adjustments in response to conditions on site. If any rooms or areas of the site become unsuitable, we will adapt arrangements accordingly.

### **Cancellation of after-school sports and swimming clubs**

Due to the significant rise in temperatures and the red heat warning, we have taken the decision to cancel after-school sports and swimming clubs this week. This decision has been made to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff during the heatwave, particularly given the risks associated with physical activity in high temperatures.

The following clubs are cancelled:

- **Monday after school:** Year 7/8 Rounders, Year 7-10 Cricket, Swimming Club, Fitness Club
- **Tuesday after school:** Year 7-10 Athletics, Year 9-10 Rounders, Water Polo Club, Fitness Club
- **Wednesday after school:** Year 7-9 Tennis, Year 7-10 Handball, Year 7/8 Gymnastics, Beginners Swimming, Fitness Club
- **Thursday after school:** Swimming Club, Fitness Club

All after-school swimming sessions are also cancelled due to the increased temperatures on poolside. Swimming lessons during the school day will be postponed until temperatures return to a safe and comfortable level.

We are also reviewing arrangements for any upcoming fixtures and competitions affected by the heatwave and will provide a further update within the next 24 hours.

### **Students with medical needs or additional vulnerabilities**

We are paying particular attention to students who may be more vulnerable during extreme heat, including those with medical needs, SEND, significant anxiety, long or complex journeys, or other circumstances that may make the heat more difficult to manage. Parents and carers of students with medical needs will receive a separate letter shortly from Mrs Boddy, Deputy Headteacher, with additional information about the support and precautions in place for these students during the red warning period.

If your child has a medical condition, takes medication, or has any other need that may make them more vulnerable during hot weather, and you have not already shared this with school, please contact their pastoral team so that we can provide appropriate support. Thank you to parents and carers that have already shared this information.



## Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom is due to take place on Wednesday evening and we are very much looking forward to seeing our Year 11 students celebrate this important milestone together. We are in regular liaison with the venue to ensure that appropriate mitigations are in place for the extreme weather conditions, including arrangements to support students' comfort and wellbeing during the event. We will continue to review this carefully in the lead-up to Wednesday evening and will update families promptly if any arrangements need to change.

Please can we also ask families to ensure that students travel to and from the venue safely, have access to water before they arrive, and take sensible precautions before and after the event, particularly if they are travelling during the warmer parts of the day.

We will continue to monitor official advice, site conditions, staffing, transport, medical and welfare considerations very closely and will communicate with families promptly if any further changes are needed.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Best wishes,



**Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher**

