

Dear Parent/Carer

Extreme heat warning: Monday and Tuesday next week - updated guidance

There have been several conversations that have taken place today with the Health Safety board and Jon Lewis, Director of Education given the level 4 warning issued by the Met Office for Monday and Tuesday next week. Following advice taken at governmental level the direction of the decision is to keep students (except those vulnerable for medical and other reasons) in school for multiple safeguarding reasons. These include the reason that students are better protected within the classroom than being outdoors for two days and possibly facing safeguarding risks such water related and being home alone. I fully support this to protect young people and also when we have suffered due to the recent lock downs.

We will remain open as per normal school hours but recommend that your child adapts their usual dress code and practice in light of **the two days** (Monday and Tuesday)

To summarise the following adjustments, I am recommending for the following two school days of planned extreme heat that:

Students clothing/equipment

- Students will be allowed to wear their **PE kit which includes shorts**. The school will not allow denim or ripped shorts.
- No strappy tops will be allowed or garment that reveals too much bare flesh.
- If students want to wear their school uniform, then can do so, but blazers ties and indeed jumpers are not advised.
- Bring water bottles, school equipment as normal, sun cream hats, and sunglasses (not to be used indoors).
- We reserve the right to judge if a student is not dressed decently.

Adaptations for Monday and Tuesday

- Follow the advice provided by the school earlier in the week we have applied the LA risk assessment policy and I am satisfied measures are in place. Caretakers will attempt to shut blinds and open windows early in the morning.
- **I have asked each subject where physical activities are the norm to take care in considering the content of lessons where physical exertion takes place and exposure to the heat. For example, PE taking place in doors only. Dance/Drama – light activities, Food tech: cancelling practical activities in advance so ingredients are not wasted.**

- Ball games and running around will be discouraged at break time not as a punishment but as means to ensure students, but to ensure they are not suffering from heat exhaustion.
- Break times will be the same as one hour of unstructured time outdoors is not advised under government guidelines. Free water fill ups are available around the school, but we encourage student to do this at break times.
- Students will be allowed to get water during a lesson as the normal rules will be relaxed on these two days.
- The school day will be the same. Please note, the notion of sending students home early also presents the same safeguarding risks as share earlier.
- Vulnerable children who are unable to self-regulate their temperature – Mr Wilson, First Aid and the SEND team will have conversations with parents/carers around these children staying at home with a remote learning offer. Those affected will receive a telephone conversation and we would consider this an authorised absence for these days. If you feel concerned that you have not been communicated, then please contact the school over the weekend via the website in the first instance.

I strongly believe having students in school under these challenging conditions, is far better than school closure and remote learning.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Erwin
Principal