



15 July 2022

Dear Parents/carers

Important: Activity Day update for parents

You will probably be aware that the Met Office has issued an extreme heat warning from Sunday 17 July through to Tuesday 19 July. The warning highlights likely adverse health effects for the public, not just limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat. Temperatures are due to be in excess of 35°C in the South East.

As a result, I have taken the difficult decision to change the arrangements for the planned activity days on Monday and Tuesday. This means that no off-site visits will take place because we are unable to mitigate the risk of extended periods of time outdoors without appropriate shade or protection in the chosen venues. In addition, the DfE advises that children should not take part in vigorous physical activity when temperatures are in excess of 30°C and for this reason some of the planned on site activities will also be changed.

Therefore, Monday will operate as a 'normal' school day and we are planning to arrange some adapted in-house activities for Tuesday. (The planned Year 12 UCAS and Year 7 kite building activities will run as planned, but on Tuesday.)

Because of the expected, extreme heat students will not be expected to wear their school uniform on Monday and Tuesday and we ask that they attend school in appropriate, cool clothing (e.g. loose light-coloured clothing if possible). Food and drink will be available in the dining hall during break and lunch at the usual times.

Parents who paid for off-site activities, or onsite activities delivered by external providers, via Parent Pay will receive refunds through their accounts. Payments made by cash or cheque will be refunded by cheque. Refunds will be made in a timely way, but we ask for your understanding given how close we are to the end of term.

It seems particularly disappointing that, after such disruption to activities and events throughout the pandemic, we now find ourselves contending with a different disrupter. However, the safety of our students and staff must always be our first priority and the potential dangers of over exposure in these very high temperatures are significant. On a more positive note, I would like to commend all your children for their positive attitude during Sports Day, which highlighted the experiential aspects of school life we believe are so important to our school community.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' at the beginning.

James Shapland
Headteacher