



Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parents and Carers,

26th June 2026

Headteacher's Update Letter 2025/2026 (Letter 10)

Weather

As you know, the country has had high temperatures this week with some other areas being on red alert. Government advice has been for individual schools to make their own decisions. The forecast has, understandably, shifted all week and today has a predicted high point of 35 degrees although it is 'sunny with a gentle breeze.'

I have already walked around the school and the effect of the microclimate is clear with some areas that are noticeably cooler. We currently have spare rooms and teachers can move which will be necessary in south facing rooms.

At the moment, school closures are localised and many primaries will close after their afternoon registration and those parents will be able to collect, and supervise, their children.

We have considered the merits of opening and closing the school. Bus companies are usually very responsive, and we always have contingencies for early closing. Key considerations for us have been:

- The supply of water
- The effect on any school systems especially sensors

There are also mitigations:

- Additional water stations
- Changes to uniform requirements
- Advice to stay in the shade at break and lunch

There are also risks with school closures and the fact that not all children and young people would be supervised. I am very wary of accidents around water as well as the heat generally and these risks would increase for some young people outside of school. In school there is supervision and plenty of adults that young people can go to.

I have therefore kept the school open although we will keep this under review. The water supply has maintained and all the young people and staff are showing resilience. Some families will have made individual decisions and some that are medically related are understandable.

Further advice

The NHS have a useful section on keeping safe in hot weather:

[Heatwave: how to cope in hot weather - NHS](#)

The RNLI have some good advice about staying safe around water:

[Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks](#)

Going Forward

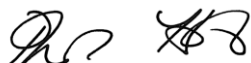
I think it would be useful to develop standard protocols for warm weather going forward. From my personal point of view this is climate change although this level of heat does not last long.

The schools building estate does need to be updated and so hopefully architects and planners will take the climate into account.

As always, thank you for your support. We have weighed things carefully to reach a balanced decision.

Next week is Activities Week and the forecast is kinder and we hope a successful week for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P J Hurst', written in a cursive style.

Mr P J Hurst
Headteacher