

22nd June 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing to provide clarity on our plans for this week as we face exceptionally high temperatures, which are forecast to peak around Wednesday and Thursday. As ever, my priority is the health and safety of students and staff. I would like to share with you the adaptations and mitigations we have put in place to manage the impact of the heat as we navigate the week ahead.

Dress code

I have made the decision to allow students the option to either wear the summer uniform (usual school uniform, but with no blazer or tie, and top button undone) or to wear PE kit for the remainder of the week. Please note that students cannot wear a mixture of school uniform and PE kit. Sixth Form students may wear loose-fitting clothing and shorts/skirts of acceptable length.

Year 7 Westminster Abbey trip

Given the Met Office Red weather warning for Wednesday 24th June, we have taken the decision to cancel this trip. Year 7 students should now attend school as normal on this day. We will work to find an alternative date for the trip to go ahead, which is likely to be in the autumn term of Year 8.

Other mitigations

- Certain lessons will be moved from particularly warm classrooms to make full use of larger spaces and air-conditioned classrooms. The school has purchased a number of portable air conditioning units, which means that spaces previously requiring relocation at times of extreme temperatures are currently more comfortable.
- The PE department will be adjusting its curriculum, and high-exertion activities will be limited, particularly in the afternoon.
- The MUGA and astro pitch will not be available during social time should the temperatures be as expected.
- Extra water will be available if necessary, but I would strongly advise students to bring more than one bottle of water.
- Practical lessons that generate heat have been suspended in Food Tech and Science
- Should students wish to sit outside during social times, they should apply suncream and will be directed to stay in the shade.

Sports Day: Friday 26th June 2026

The current Met Office forecast indicates that the temperature for Friday is expected to be lower than in the middle of the week. Following the cancellation of sports day last year, our PE department has worked hard to put robust heat mitigations in place. We are hopeful that, given these measures, the event will be able to go ahead as planned, although we may need to alter the length of the day. Clearly, should the forecast change and temperatures rise to match those forecast for the middle of the week, then we will have no option but to reluctantly cancel the event. I will provide further information for parents/guardians by Wednesday evening.

Parental support

There is no doubt that conditions for teaching and learning across the country will be challenging this week, but I am fortunate to lead a school with a dedicated and committed staff, and student behaviour today was largely

excellent. I recognise that classrooms will be hotter than normal, but students should not ask to leave lessons to refill water bottles as there is adequate time at break and lunch times to do this. I would also like to remind parents/guardians that mini fans of any description are not allowed in school and cause significant distraction to the learning environment.

Further updates

I am conscious that the situation is fluid and, although there is no maximum legal temperature for education settings, I am committed to ensuring that we do not put unreasonable demands on students or staff. I will continue to work closely with other Hillingdon headteachers, and we will update our plans based on conditions in the building as the week progresses. I recognise that this may be frustrating for parents/guardians who value certainty, but the guidelines from the Department of Education are clear that schools should, wherever possible, 'manage hot weather to allow students to learn and reach their potential'. I will write to you again tomorrow evening should there be any update to our current plans.

I would like to thank parents/guardians for your understanding of this difficult situation, and for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher