

22nd June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Met Office has today upgraded its guidance to a red weather warning for extreme heat from 9.00am on Wednesday until 9.00pm on Thursday. This represents the highest level of alert and indicates a significant risk to health and safety, even for those who are otherwise fit and well.

After carefully reviewing this updated guidance, and considering the welfare of students and staff, **I have taken the difficult decision that the school will now be fully closed on Wednesday and Thursday this week.**

Tomorrow (Tuesday 23rd) – School will be open until 12.25pm as communicated earlier today. Please note that if your child catches the Pewsey Vale service SJ1, B2912, B2913 & 820 they are now arriving at 12.30 for pick up, not 1pm.

Why this decision has been made

- Red weather warnings are issued only when there is a high likelihood of serious illness or danger to life.
- Our site-based mitigations, while effective in moderate heat, cannot fully counter the risks associated with prolonged extreme temperatures.
- Many classrooms and internal spaces are not designed to cope with sustained heat at this level, even with ventilation measures in place.
- The safety of students travelling to and from school—particularly those on long bus routes—must also be taken into account.
- The updated warning covers the full school day on both days, leaving no safe window for partial opening.

This is not a decision I have taken lightly. I fully appreciate the disruption this may cause for families, but the health and safety of our students and staff must come first.

Arrangements for Learning

- Remote learning expectations will be shared by subject teachers where appropriate, but if the temperatures reach the predicted levels, students will likely find it difficult to concentrate.
- Sixth Form students should continue with independent study and preparation for upcoming assessments.

Return to School

We expect to reopen as normal on Friday, when temperatures are forecast to return to safer levels. I will keep you updated should any further changes be required.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this period of exceptional weather. Your cooperation helps us ensure the wellbeing of our entire school community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Henderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Henderson
Principal

