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Michael McCulley
Principal

Registered in England
Company number 07515832

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Dear Parents/Carers

Extreme weather in Warwickshire w/b 18 July 2022

I write in response to information from the meteorological office that temperatures in the UK are likely to reach potentially dangerous levels early next week. You will be aware that we have already moved our Sports Day to this week ahead of the extreme weather and Amber weather warning.

We are fortunate that our historic buildings have cooled air circulation systems, the sports centre has full air conditioning and the new teaching blocks have mechanical air circulation systems. Therefore, during usual spells of warm weather our teaching environment is considerably more temperate than is the case in many schools built in the mid-C20th or earlier. Our sophisticated building management systems have recorded that the maximum indoor temperature in any of our buildings has been 21C during the recent spells of hot weather. However, next week's temperatures are likely to be particularly extreme and perhaps record-breaking, and we are conscious that pupils have their journeys to and from school, as well as it being likely that even with our modern campus' climate systems, it could become quite warm in some classrooms.

As a precaution, next week **pupils may choose to wear their PE kits on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday if they wish**. If they have the optional Houlton School uniform grey shorts and would prefer to wear these, they may wear them with their school usual shirt but will **not** be required to wear their school tie or blazer. Pupils may wear either their school shoes or plain outdoor sports shoes.

As pupils' skin will be more exposed when wearing PE kit, please ensure your child is wearing a high sun protection factor sunscreen on exposed areas and that they have a basketball-style cap or sun hat to wear when outside. Where possible, please give them sun cream to re-apply before breaks and the journey home.

Pupils do not need to be outside at any time if they do not wish to be. They are able to be in the shade of the water tower or inside in our refectory.

There are water fountains on every floor of the buildings across campus and outside around campus, so please remind your child they will need to drink more frequently than usual during hot spells/to have a refillable water bottle with them.



Finally, please remind pupils over the weekend and in the evenings that local rivers and reservoirs maintain extremely cold temperatures at depth even during extreme hot weather so entering them is extremely dangerous. Especially when the body is warmer than usual immersion in cold water rapidly incapacitates and can kill. **The sudden exposure of the head and body to cold water can cause a number of involuntary body reactions** – this condition is known as cold water shock. It is one of the most profound stimuli that the body can encounter and it cannot be prevented so please have a chat with your child about keeping themselves safe when they are out and about.

Should you have any queries or concerns that are not addressed by this letter, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Michael McCulley
Principal