

8 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that, due to the current period of exceptionally high temperatures and the amber heat health alert issued by the UKHSA and Met Office, the school will be closed on **Friday 10 July**. We will reopen on **Monday 13 July 2026**. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made in order to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff.

We have taken this step following careful consideration, as high indoor temperatures can make learning difficult and pose significant health risks, particularly for younger children and anyone with underlying health conditions. We have assessed the situation across our two sites and three buildings, and we are unable to put measures in place that would sufficiently mitigate these risks. It is regrettable that we are in this situation so soon after the closure in June.

We have sought to mitigate risk this week as far as is practicable to maintain provision during our Activities Week.

- We have **postponed** the Year 9 trip to Crealy as the coaches do not have air conditioning and the risk assessment enforces the view that the temperature would not be safe for a long journey. We have continued with trips that are more local.
- To maintain provision, we have switched the Year 9 Sports Day from Friday 10 July to Thursday 9 July. The risk has been assessed, and we are confident that we can deliver this safely with a range of measures in place. Holding the Sports Day on Friday is not an option due to the temperatures.
- We are hoping to hold the Year 9 Crealy trip on either the 20 or 21 July and have guarantees that all coaches will have air conditioning. The weather forecast for those days is less extreme. We hope to be able to confirm this in due course.

The measures above have led to a further challenge and knock-on effects regarding provision for Year 9 on Friday as all large spaces are already booked for Year 7 and Year 8. Unfortunately, we lack enough large, air-conditioned spaces to safely accommodate activities for everyone, especially with temperatures expected to exceed 32 degrees. This is compounded by the problems we are experiencing this week with our chiller (cooling) system that circulates air in our sealed building.

## **Free School Meals**

We are working to ensure that vouchers are available for students who are entitled to Free School Meals. We will share more information regarding this tomorrow.

## **School Work**

We will not set work for Friday as we appreciate this is Activities Week for students. All Year 7, 8 and 9 students have access to Sparx Maths, and this can be utilised for additional study if helpful. Year 12 students can continue independent study in line with our 'hour for an hour' principle. However, we recognise the impact of the heat and emphasise that students who do complete schoolwork should work safely. We appreciate that completing work might not be possible for some students, and it is not expected by the school on Friday 10 July. We also understand that some individuals may have additional responsibilities, such as acting as a young carer, and therefore expectations for remote work will remain proportionate and flexible.

## **Year 12 Geography Students**

We are assessing whether we can safely continue with the Year 12 Geography Coursework session on Friday. The school will be in contact with Year 12 Geographers and their parents/carers once a decision has been reached.

## **Keeping Children Safe and Cool at Home**

During this period of hot weather, we recommend taking the following steps to help keep your child comfortable and safe:

- **Stay hydrated:** Encourage your child to drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- **Keep indoors during peak heat:** Avoid outdoor activities between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM where possible.
- **Create a cool environment:** Keep curtains or blinds closed in sunny rooms, and open windows in the early morning or late evening to allow cooler air to circulate.
- **Dress appropriately:** Loose, light-coloured clothing is best in hot weather.
- **Use sunscreen:** Apply a high-factor sunscreen if your child is outside and reapply it regularly.
- **Rest and quiet activities:** Encourage calm indoor activities to prevent overheating.

Please also remain vigilant for signs of heat-related illness, such as headaches, dizziness, or unusual tiredness, and seek medical advice if needed.

## **Avoiding Dangerous Activities**

It is natural that some teenagers may think it is a good idea during a heatwave to go to a river or lake to stay cool, or to meet up with friends in public parks. However, these activities (particularly when mixed with alcohol) can lead to an increased risk of serious harm. We encourage you to remind your child of these dangers. [This BBC article serves as a timely reminder.](#)

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time. If you have any urgent queries, please contact us at **enquiries@smrt.bristol.sch.uk** as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Del Planter', written in a cursive style.

Del Planter  
Headteacher