



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr T Williams

23rd June 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Heatwave – school closed on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June

I am sure you are aware of the forecast high temperatures and red weather warning for extreme heat over the next few days. High temperatures have already badly affected our timetabled lessons today and we have been monitoring our classrooms closely. Our main block and humanities area saw temperatures reach 34°C in classrooms despite our best efforts to keep the rooms cool, some rooms with air conditioning still reached 30°C.

A Met Office Red Warning Extreme Heat states: plan for population-wide adverse health effects, not limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat, leading to serious illness or danger to life. Today in school we have implemented all aspects of our risk assessment, despite our best efforts we have struggled to make the school safe. Temperatures will rise further and therefore the risk of danger will increase.

We have been impressed by, and grateful for, the mature behaviour of students who have continued to work well in these conditions and responded sensibly to room changes. I am also grateful to the staff who have continued to teach high-quality lessons.

Tomorrow and Thursday, the forecast shows temperatures rising as high as 38°C. Given that our classrooms, when used by a class of students, tend to be several degrees hotter than the temperature outside, we currently expect our classrooms to be 40°C or hotter for most of this time.

This is the point at which heat stroke becomes a real possibility and people with pre-existing medical conditions risk becoming seriously ill.

For many reasons I have decided to temporarily close the school. Please know this choice was not made lightly. While I always strive to keep our routine uninterrupted, safeguarding the health and safety of our students and staff is my absolute priority. I have considered opening for mornings only; however this leads to students being asked to make their way home during one of the hottest parts of the day.

Arrangements are as follows:

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June: school closed all day.

Teachers will **set work on Sims Engagement** and will be online and contactable by email across the school day to support with this.

Always Faithful with Christ

Free School Meals

If, as a family, you are eligible for free school meals and you would like them provided for you complete the MS forms survey using the link below.

[Free School Meal Order](#)

Free school meals will be available for collection from the school site on Wednesday only between 10.30am and 11.00am. Please come to the Conservatory Fire Exit by the bike sheds.

Year 10 Examinations

Further details regarding a re-scheduled timetable will be shared as soon as possible.

Friday 26 June: BHBS open as usual: Updates will be sent if the situation changes.

At present students can attend on Friday in the adjusted uniform arrangements actioned for today. We will plan to revert to full summer uniform, without blazers, on Monday.

I sincerely apologise for the late notice regarding this closure. However, experiencing the extreme conditions inside the school this afternoon, combined with the current forecast, has made this step necessary. Closing the school is never an easy decision, but our buildings unfortunately trap heat, making classrooms significantly hotter than it is outside and risking serious heat-related illness.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Williams
Headteacher