

Dear Parents and Carers,

Monday 22nd June 2026

As you will be aware, the Met Office has issued **Amber and Red Heat Alerts** across parts of the country for the coming days. The health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remains our highest priority. Duke's Academy has a clear hot weather risk assessment in place which is used to guide our decisions during periods of extreme temperatures. This risk assessment ensures that the health and safety of all members of our community remains at the heart of every decision we make.

As part of our ongoing Culture Reset, our expectations regarding uniform, conduct and standards remain unchanged. However, where temperatures increase significantly, we will make sensible adaptations to support students' comfort and wellbeing. This may include students being permitted to remove their blazers when directed to do so by staff.

Due to the forecast extremely high temperatures from midday on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**, we will **operate an amended school day**.

On **Tuesday 23rd June**, Students will have a staggered lunch during **Period 4** and will then be dismissed from school. We will ensure that Year 7, 8 and 9 all have the opportunity to eat lunch inside before leaving site by **1:35pm** each day.

Year 10 students will continue to attend their scheduled **English Pre-Public Examination** in the Multi-Purpose Hall, which is fully air-conditioned. Students will complete their examination, have lunch and then leave the site. Detentions will also go ahead in air-conditioned spaces.

The same arrangements will operate on **Wednesday 24th June and Thursday 25th June**.

These temporary changes have been carefully considered in line with our hot weather risk assessment and are intended to minimise students' exposure to the highest temperatures during the afternoon. In addition, this adaptation will not impact on your child's current attendance percentage as they will have been registered for their afternoon mark. If your child does not attend school on these days their absence will be unauthorised.

Alongside these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the expectations that have been shared with students through our recent Culture Reset assemblies. These expectations remain in place and are essential in ensuring that Duke's Aldridge Academy continues to be a safe, calm and purposeful environment where every child can thrive.

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance and punctuality remain essential if students are to achieve their full potential. Students are expected to be on site by **8:38am** and ready for line-up at **8:40am**. Students arriving after this time must enter through the late gate. Students who arrive late to school will:

- Enter through the late gate.
- Complete a late reflection.
- Remain in the Late Room until the end of Tutor Time or Period 1.
- Receive a same-day detention.

Students arriving after Period 1 will complete missed work and this lateness may impact attendance and could lead to further intervention. Research consistently shows that poor attendance and lateness have a significant negative impact on achievement, wellbeing and future opportunities.

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Uniform Expectations

Students are expected to wear their uniform correctly and with pride. This includes:

- Shirts tucked in.
- Top button fastened.
- Tie worn correctly.
- Blazer worn unless staff direct otherwise due to the weather.
- Trousers and skirts worn appropriately and to the correct length.

Items such as hoodies, false eyelashes, fake nails and other non-uniform items are not permitted. Students who fail to meet these expectations will be expected to correct their uniform and sanctions may be applied where necessary.

Mobile Phones

To support learning and minimise distractions, mobile phones must not be seen or heard during the school day.

Any phone that is seen or heard will be confiscated in line with our policy:

- First breach - confiscated for five school days.
- Second breach - confiscated for ten school days.
- Third breach - confiscated for the remainder of the term.

From September, students will not have access to their mobile phones during the school day. This approach supports concentration, positive social interaction and is aligned with current government guidance.

Respect and Conduct

Students are expected to:

- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Follow staff instructions first time, every time.
- Respect personal space and queues.
- Not engaged in forms of physical contact, including play fighting and water fights.
- Represent the academy positively both in school and when travelling to and from the academy.

We will continue to monitor weather conditions closely throughout the week and will keep our hot weather risk assessment under constant review. **Should conditions change, we will make any necessary adjustments or adaptations to our arrangements** in order to safeguard the health, wellbeing and safety of our students and staff. We will ensure that parents and carers are kept fully informed of any changes as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work together to ensure that Duke's Academy remains a safe, calm and successful environment for every member of our community.

Yours faithfully,
Claire Bessa
Principal
Duke's Academy