



**DUKE'S**  
ALDRIDGE ACADEMY

25 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support, understanding and cooperation during this period of hot weather. Your support, alongside the positive partnership between home and school, has enabled us to respond effectively to the changing conditions while maintaining our high expectations and ensuring the wellbeing of all members of our community.

I would also like to reassure parents and carers that throughout this period students have been learning in well-ventilated classrooms and air-conditioned spaces. We have made a number of adaptations to the school day in order to keep students comfortable and safe, including allowing students to remove blazers after morning line-up, loosen ties and untuck shirts when directed by staff.

Our students have responded extremely well to these changes. In general, they have shown considerable resilience, maturity and responsibility throughout the warmer weather, and we are very proud of the way they have adapted to the changing circumstances while continuing to engage positively with their learning.

As previously communicated, the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our highest priority. We continue to monitor weather forecasts closely and our hot weather risk assessment remains under constant review. As temperatures predicted later this week continue to increase, it is likely that the amended school day arrangements will need to remain in place until Friday.

We will review our risk assessment again tomorrow and will write to parents and carers to confirm arrangements for Friday 26th June.

In line with these adaptations, students may leave their blazers at home tomorrow. Students should continue to attend school in full uniform, including shirt and tie, and staff will continue to make appropriate adjustments during the school day where necessary.

Students will continue to have a staggered lunch during Period 4 before being dismissed from school. We anticipate that all students will leave the site through a staggered dismissal process. We will send parents and carers a text message tomorrow morning confirming the approximate dismissal times for each year group. Please be mindful that these are approximate timings in order to allow students to eat before leaving school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate several important expectations that continue to form part of our Culture Reset.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

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

We are delighted that lateness to school has already reduced by 50% in just one day!

## **Uniform expectations**

Students are expected to wear their uniform correctly and with pride. During the current hot weather, temporary adaptations are being made to support students' comfort and wellbeing. However, students should continue to arrive at school in full uniform and be ready to meet our usual expectations when conditions allow.

## **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones must not be seen or heard during the school day. Any phone that is seen or heard will be confiscated in accordance with our policy. From September, students will not have access to their mobile phones during the school day in order to support concentration, learning and positive social interaction.

We will continue to evaluate our risk assessment daily and make any necessary adaptations to our arrangements as conditions change. Should any further adjustments be required, we will communicate these promptly to all parents and carers.

Thank you once again for your continued support, understanding and partnership. By working together, we can ensure that Duke's Academy remains a safe, calm and successful environment where every student can thrive.

Yours faithfully



**Claire Bessa**  
Principal  
Duke's Aldridge Academy