



CRESTWOOD
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

25 June 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer

Weather Update

I apologise for the lateness of this letter, but I have just finished meeting with the SLT. This letter will serve as this week's bulletin.

Whatever decision we make, we will be unable to please everyone. My prime concern has always been, and continues to be, the health and well-being of the students and staff moving forward, whilst providing and maintaining a positive learning environment.

We are experiencing weather like we have never had before. It is easy for people to comment about getting air conditioning in rooms, but where will the funding come from? We are not talking about cooling down a house, we are talking about cooling down large buildings that were not built to withstand these temperatures. We have raised significant concerns with Hampshire County Council as a maintained school, as it is clear that something needs to happen as this situation will repeat itself in the future.

Temperatures in the buildings today were nearing 40° in most rooms, these are rooms with no students or staff in, add 32 students and an adult support these will rise significantly.

We also have to consider the vulnerable staff and students. We have already had to call an ambulance on Wednesday as a staff member was severely affected by the heat and as a result was admitted to hospital. A red warning signifies a “danger to life”, and if anything were to happen to a child or adult in our school, we could not live with ourselves because we made the wrong decision.

I have consulted with Governors and wider members of the staff, and I have taken the difficult decision **to remain closed to students on Friday 26th June**. Learning materials will continue to be provided via Google Classroom and Arbor for your children to access at home.

If your child requires a packed lunch, please complete the [form here](#). These can be collected from the home campus between 8am and 10am.

The red weather warning tomorrow does shift further east and Eastleigh is sitting outside this, however it is close. It is difficult to predict where it will be tomorrow. I appreciate that some schools are having a partial opening, but we have to assess our situation in our buildings, and the decision has been made that our children and staff may be at risk in these conditions.

Crestwood Community School

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Given the tragedy at Testwood Lakes I urge parents and carers to highlight the significant risks around [swimming in open waters](#), [sun protection and hydration](#). Children do not fully understand the dangers, and 19 people have lost their lives this year as a result of swimming in unsafe areas. The link is here for [Advice for staying safe and well ahead of red heat health alert | Hampshire County Council](#)

- Reception will be open from 8.00am to 10.00am on Friday, 26th June on both campuses. Parents/carers of year 6 students who wish to collect their uniform vouchers can do so between these times.
- Barton Peveril Trip will continue as normal, Students should continue with the plan as outlined in the trip letter. Students should make their own way to the College, registering with Crestwood Staff at 8.30am. Students will be dismissed at 2.15pm.
- Year 10 work experience for Cherbourg students takes place Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July.
- Year 10 Shakespeare students will be undertaking their mock exams on Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July.
- Year 5 Performance Festival is taking place at the Shakespeare Campus on Monday 29th June and the Cherbourg Campus on Tuesday 30th June
- Norwood Sports Day, Thursday 2nd July.
- Year 6 transition day has been postponed to Wednesday, 1st July 2026.
- Year 11 Prom takes place on Tuesday 30th June at St. Mary's Stadium.

Conditions are expected to be much cooler next week, and therefore, we will be returning to the **normal uniform expectations**. The new uniform is available at Skoolkit, otherwise the white shirt with no tie and no blazer is acceptable. Bottoms are the school skirt, tailored shorts or trousers. No other form of dress will be accepted.

I would sincerely like to thank the vast majority of parents for their unstinting support with these decisions, closing the school is not one I take lightly. Looking forward to seeing the students on Monday in cooler conditions.

Yours sincerely

Krista Dawkins
Executive Headteacher

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