



## HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been closely monitoring the impact of the current weather on the school environment: you will be aware that the met office has currently issued an amber health alert for extreme heat. Although there is a legal limit for a minimum temperature in school, there is no upper limit. However, as with any extreme weather, we carry out a dynamic risk assessment, considering any adjustments we can put in place to ensure we maintain the wellbeing of pupils and staff. We have already issued advice to staff on how to support students in the weather and have added in additional water stations around the school, re-roomed some activities to cooler rooms and adjusted some enrichment tasks.

On Thursday, Year 7, 8 and 9 will be fully back in the building, after Activities Week, alongside Year 6 primary children for their Transition Day. As a further adjustment, we have taken the decision that the **Secondary and Sixth Form phase will close a little earlier on Thursday 25th June and Friday 26th June, at 1.30pm**. This means that the main portion of learning can take place whilst ensuring we vacate the building before the hottest part of the day. Please note that the **Primary Phase will remain open until the usual time of 3.40pm**. This is because all rooms in the primary school have air conditioning, ensuring that pupils and staff can remain cool.

Key information:

- On **Thursday 25th June and Friday 26th June** the school will finish at **1.30pm**
- We have contacted Dons of Dunmow and Lodges who have agreed to have **school buses ready for the early finish time of 1.30pm**. We have also contacted Central Connect to inform them of our decision. However, as they are public buses they are not able to adjust their timetable.
- **Any student who is not able to be collected can remain in school and will be supervised until the end of the day when they can be collected.** Students should come to the main hall if they are not getting a school bus at the end of the day
- As with other early finish times, students should get food at break time. Break is extended on both days to 30 minutes to accommodate this. Our caterers have adjusted their menu for these days to include water cartons and ice lollies to help with the heat.
- In light of the earlier finish, the timetable for in-school activities will be adjusted slightly and students will be informed of this when they arrive in school. Timings will be listed in student reception and explained by staff in lessons.
- On Thursday 25th June, we are hosting the Year 6 Transition Day. This will go ahead as planned but will also finish at 1.30pm. A separate letter will be sent to Year 6 parents to confirm arrangements.

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Catherine Davis BA(Hons)

**Pupil uniform for the remainder of the week**

To support our pupils, we have decided that they can wear **school PE kit for the remainder of the week**. This must be in line with the PE kit expectations set out on our school website. We will write to parents at the end of the week to confirm dress code for the following week but we are anticipating a return to normal school uniform as the temperatures are forecasted to be more in line with seasonal expectations.

We are hopeful that these adjustments will support both students and staff and will allow everyone to enjoy the rest of the week.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Davis," with a comma at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Catherine Davis  
Executive Headteacher