

18th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

In light of the extreme weather conditions the country, in particular the South East, are facing over the coming days, I am writing to inform you that the decision has been taken to postpone our annual rewards trips as well as shorten the school day for **Monday 18th July and Tuesday 19th July**.

While I know that many of our wonderful students will be feeling disappointed by this decision, I must be mindful of the health risks associated with such temperatures and how the trips are both outside and involve either train or tube journeys. Already, many C2C services to Southend have been cancelled this week with more to follow, meaning that there is a real risk that students and staff could be left stranded. Also, with train tracks potentially buckling due to the temperatures we could be in a situation where large numbers of us could be stuck for hours, either underground or on static trains, without enough water or air conditioning. This is a risk that we, as a school, simply cannot take.

Please be reassured, however, that the rewards trips will take place at a future date towards the end of the first half term.

Furthermore, due to the challenges faced by staff/students getting into work/school and returning home in light of trains being cancelled and services reduced, **we will be closing the school at 2:40pm today** (one hour earlier). **Tomorrow, Tuesday 19th July, we will have a half day where students will be able to leave at 12pm**. There will be some staff on-site to supervise any students who cannot make their way home at that time and lunch will be provided for anyone who wishes to have it. Please note that this decision has not been made lightly, however, I am mindful of the problems faced by many staff/students who use public transport and this, I am sure that you can agree, is an appropriate response which is in-line with other schools across the country.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you and best wishes to all.



Mr. Tom Raw
Deputy Headteacher