

June 2017

Dear parents and guardians

I am writing to clarify one or two points relating to the current hot weather in response to some queries this morning. Whilst the hot weather is welcome in many ways, it always presents issues in terms of the smooth running of any school!

Firstly, we have had some issues with our heating system and, regrettably, this meant that radiators in a few classrooms were on yesterday. We have engineers looking into the problem and, whilst at the time of writing we do not fully understand why radiators were emitting heat (the central heating boilers are all off and have been for weeks), the underlying issue is an antiquated heating and hot water system. We have been successful in winning a significant bid for funding to upgrade part of this system and work was already scheduled to begin on this within the next few weeks. In the meantime, radiators are being turned off manually and we do not anticipate future issues on any kind of scale; nearly all of them were off by this morning. We can only apologise for the problems here and hope that you understand; unfortunately, this type of thing is at least partly a consequence of reductions in school funding in recent years and we are doing our very best to cope.

Secondly, I'd like to take the opportunity to remind you to ensure students come to school with refillable water bottles and to help us reinforce the message that they should fill these up at break and lunchtime. Break time is 30 minutes long and lunchtime is nearly an hour, so there is plenty of opportunity to do this and it is certainly not necessary for students to wait until the last minute or two of lunchtime to fill bottles up and therefore risk being late for lessons. Students are allowed to drink water in lessons, although we generally do not allow them out of lessons to fill up bottles.

Finally, as you'd expect, we do allow students to take blazers off and carry them in very hot weather — and that policy has been in place this week. On days where we expect it to be very hot, a member of the senior leadership group informs tutors first thing in the morning and they pass the message on to students. One or two parents have told us that students were expected to wear blazers yesterday but I can say that this was certainly not the case.

I hope this serves to explain any queries you might have had, but do feel free to contact school if we can be of any further help.

Kind regards Gwyn Williams

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