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St Mark's Church of England Academy

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Headteacher: Aimee Gallagher

23rd June 2026

Dear Parents & Families

Re: School Closure Due to Extreme Heat – Wednesday 24 June and Thursday 25 June 2026

I am writing to inform you that, following a risk assessment review with Anthem Trust and advice received from the Met Office, all schools in a red weather warning zone are now being advised to temporarily close, in the interest of the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff. As such, St Mark's Church of England Academy will be close to all pupils and staff on **Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June 2026 only**.

To ensure that we are supporting students to continue to access their learning, teachers will be providing learning online for their classes. Work will be assigned to students via the usual platforms used for homework and online learning. Parents are asked to support their child in accessing and completing the work available to them. Mock exams scheduled to take place for Year 10 and Year 12 will be rescheduled and parents will be notified of the arrangements shortly.

Whilst we are now being directed to close the site, we want to reassure you that the school has implemented a range of measures to mitigate the effects of the exceptionally hot weather. These have included ensuring ventilation procedures were fully followed, providing constant access to drinking water, installation of temporary air conditioning units and fans in classrooms, reducing physical activity, drawing blinds on windows and switching off lights and electrical items where appropriate throughout the school. Despite these measures, the temperature within classrooms and recreational spaces has remained unacceptably high.

We fully appreciate the inconvenience that this decision may cause families and have not taken it lightly. However, given the conditions experienced today, the forecast temperatures for the remainder of the week, and the advice given to us by the Met Office, this is now the most responsible course of action to safeguard both students and staff.

Please note the school site will remain fully closed until the morning of Friday 26th June 2026, when students are expected to arrive promptly, as normal.

Yours sincerely,

Aimee Gallagher

Headteacher

