



Headteacher: Mr Paul Beale, BSc (Hons), NPQH, PGCE

25th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the course of this week, temperatures have been exceptionally high, and yesterday in particular was extremely challenging at Old Buckenham High School.

We are fortunate to have a unique site, with minimal corridors and extensive open spaces. However, this also means that many of our classrooms are exposed to direct sunlight throughout the day, which can lead to uncomfortable and, in extreme cases, unsafe conditions.

Yesterday, we closely monitored temperatures across the school and relocated lessons in the afternoon to avoid the warmest areas. We limited physical activity during break times and ensured that all students had access to shaded indoor spaces. Staff also actively encouraged students to remain in the shade, stay hydrated, and apply sun cream. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child arrives at school with appropriate clothing, sufficient water, and sun protection.

Looking ahead to Friday, the forecast indicates that temperatures will rise further beyond those experienced yesterday. Given these conditions, and after careful consideration of all available options, particularly the challenges posed by our site and the number of students who rely on transport, I have made the difficult decision to close the school on Friday 26th June.

What does this mean?

- The school will be closed on Friday 26th June.
- We will provide on-site supervision for students who cannot remain at home.
- If your child needs to attend, you must complete the attendance form to inform us.

[Heat Wave School Closure - Student Sign Up – Fill in form](#)

If my child attends school on Friday:

- As the school is officially closed, normal school transport will not operate. Parents/carers will need to make their own travel arrangements.
- The usual timetable will not run; students will be supervised in the coolest available areas of the school.
- Students eligible for free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch (if attendance has been confirmed in advance).
- All other students will need to bring a packed lunch.

COMMUNITY - AMBITION - RESPECT



Headteacher: Mr Paul Beale, BSc (Hons), NPQH, PGCE

If my child remains at home:

- Work will be set by teachers and uploaded to Go4Schools, as usual.

We appreciate that closing the school is disruptive and assure you that this decision has not been taken lightly. Our priority is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff during these extreme conditions.

As with any closure, we recognise that some students may use the time to socialise. I would like to emphasise the importance of keeping safe, particularly around open water. High temperatures can increase the temptation to enter rivers, lakes, or reservoirs, where there are significant risks.

During Drowning Prevention Week, the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) highlighted the Water Safety Code to help raise awareness. I strongly encourage families to review water safety guidance together. Useful resources can be found via:

- National Water Safety Forum – UK Drowning Prevention Strategy
- Child Accident Prevention Trust – Drowning advice
- British Red Cross – Staying safe around water
- RNLI – Respect the Water campaign

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Beale
Headteacher

COMMUNITY - AMBITION - RESPECT