



## Bexley Grammar School

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A Specialist Language College and

IB World School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

*Quick glance summary:*

- Years 7-10: BGS PE kit allowed. Sixth form, see details below.
- Bring water, a hat and usual school equipment in their school bag.
- No games on the field at lunch time.

I write to assure you that we have been planning for the expected extreme temperatures and that we have put in place all the measures we have at our disposal to keep your children safe and as comfortable as possible next week. I have delayed sharing with you our contingency plans for next week as long as possible, in case circumstances changed as we approached the weekend. Whilst yesterday was quite a pleasant 26 degrees outside and today feels similar, the information I have as I write predicts 37 degrees by Monday with the Met Office amber warning in place from Sunday until Tuesday.

Some of our classrooms have already been getting very warm as your children may have mentioned. The oldest parts of our accommodation were built from the 1950s to the 1970s and are not well insulated or ventilated. We are taking advantage of the absence of two year groups to move lessons from the 'warmest' rooms to cooler rooms wherever possible and we continue to use ventilation, blinds and fans to minimise discomfort in rooms that are not air conditioned.

We had already removed the requirement to wear blazers but from Monday, we are relaxing our uniform requirements to **allow students in years 7-10 to wear our BGS PE kit**. They are not required to, but if they choose not to wear school uniform they must wear their PE kit instead. This is NOT own clothes.

In the **sixth form** students may wear a dress or a knee length smart skirt with a smart top that covers their shoulders. Or they may wear knee length smart shorts, again with a t-shirt that covers their shoulders. No jackets or ties are required. No flip-flops permitted - they present a health and safety hazard in school. Of course, students may continue to wear normal sixth form uniform if they choose but anyone inappropriately dressed will be sent home to change.

All students should be reminded to bring their bags with their equipment and books as usual.

There is plenty of online advice about staying safe during a heatwave and I therefore ask for your support in ensuring that your child understands the risks of sunstroke. Please ensure your child has

a water bottle and a hat for when they are outside. We will encourage students who normally play games on the field at lunch time to take the opportunity to run around at break, before peak temperatures are reached because **we will not allow students onto the field at lunch time**. They may sit in shady areas around the edge of the field or in their form rooms. The risk of harm from physical exertion in strong sunshine at 35+ degrees is too high to allow students choice in this matter. Please explain this to your child before Monday so that they understand why we are taking these measures.

Although Wednesday is forecast to be much cooler again, we will leave the optional uniform alternatives in place for the last day. Please remember that all students will be dismissed at 12.25 pm and are expected to be off site by 12.35 pm.

(You may be interested in the results of a student IB experiment in science ([Environmental Systems & Societies](#)) regarding the effectiveness of a range of sun creams against UV. Zara Karim (y12) found the best cream in each category for UV protection as follows: Factor 50 - *Boots Soltan*, Factor 30 - *Malibu* and Factor 15 - *Green People*.)

As another academic year closes, may I thank you all for your support and for your many communications of support as we have navigated back to our BGS norms of, sometimes frenetic, activity. It has been fantastic to celebrate our IB results and we look forward to a similar celebration on 25th August when the GCSE results are released. We will then have a full set of examined results for our long-awaited Ofsted visit which now seems more than likely in the Autumn term. If any of you would like to follow up your kind words of heart-felt thanks that have been deeply appreciated by me and so many staff by providing some feedback for Ofsted to look at before they visit, you can always use [ParentView](#) to do so. Simply provide an email address to register and then there are 14 brief questions to answer - the whole process takes less than 5 minutes.

For those of you not going abroad, I don't assume for a moment that the fine weather will last into August but I still hope it does and I trust that everyone has a wonderful break.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick