

24th June 2026

Dear Families,

I am writing this afternoon to update you on the situation in school due to the current extreme weather conditions.

At the time of writing, we remain under an amber weather warning. In line with the Department for Education's updated guidance issued this morning, we have done—and will continue to do—our very best to remain open.

I appreciate that there are mixed views among families about whether schools should remain open during such conditions. However, with over 81% of Braunton Academy students and almost 90% of primary school pupils in attendance today, this suggests that most parents would prefer schools to remain open where it is safe to do so.

Over the past few days, we have carried out continuous dynamic risk assessments, reviewed on an hourly basis. Until this afternoon, we were confident that our measures were effective and that the school was managing the situation well, ensuring students' safety while maintaining a reasonable level of learning—albeit at a slower pace than we would expect in cooler conditions.

However, since lunchtime, we have encountered increasing difficulty in keeping some classrooms within acceptable temperature levels. Although we have been able to relocate many classes, we are now reaching the limits of our capacity to do so safely. In addition, significant condensation has developed on flooring around the quad area due to the heat, creating potential health and safety risks as large numbers of students move through these spaces.

For these reasons, and with temperatures forecast to rise further tomorrow, we have made the decision to close the school early at 12.45 pm. The agreed time to shut has been made in consultation with Devon transport providers to ensure that all the buses can pick up at the same time.

We recognise that extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent in the coming years. As a result, we will be reviewing our facilities and planning how best to adapt our environment to ensure we are better equipped for these conditions in future, with the aim of minimising disruption for families and the wider community.

BRAUNTON SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

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We understand that an early closure may present challenges for some families, particularly where childcare arrangements are affected. If there is a specific reason why your child cannot leave school at 12.45 pm tomorrow and you would like them to remain in school under supervision until 3.15 pm, please contact admin@braunton.academy before 9.00 am tomorrow morning with the subject title REQUEST FOR AFTERNOON SUPERVISION IN SCHOOL.

Sports Day is still planned to take place on Friday when the temperature is forecast to drop to the low 20s. It will still be warm, and it is important that students and families, if you are joining us, bring adequate water, sun protection and a hat. Hopefully lots of families will join us to cheer on the students and enjoy an ice-cream! Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bowler
Principal
Braunton Academy