



July 2018

Sports Day

In light of the exceptionally hot and dry conditions, the school has seen fit this year to take certain steps on Sports Day to safeguard students and staff alike against the increased risk of ill-effects associated with prolonged exposure to the sun. These actions are listed below:

- An event marquee, large enough to provide cover for all competitors will be placed in the centre of the track. This will be used at times of briefing, track spectating, relays and presentations. It will also provide shelter for competitors and spectators involved in the tug – of – war competitions.
- Shade, either natural, from buildings or in the form of smaller marquees and gazebos will be provided at each of the other events. This includes at the 8 softball games taking place at the Old Northamptonians for Years 8 and 10. Students not immediately active at any given time will be directed to remain beneath this shade as provided.
- The Year 7 and 9 volleyball competitions will be staged indoors this year, at the Sports Hall.
- The students will have unlimited access to drinking water from a number of sources within the school. This happens every year, but the importance of hydration will be stressed more regularly on Wednesday, reflective of conditions.
- The school's main concourse area will be staffed this year and remain open for all students to use at any stage, for shade and to access cooler temperatures as necessary.
- Students will also be able to take shade at the first aid station at the cricket pavilion on the school site and the Cripps Pavilion at the ON's, as appropriate.
- Students will also be encouraged to take their lunch break indoors during the allotted time, 11.30am - 12.30pm.

Naturally, these measures are in addition to the annual advice as outlined in my letter of last week. Specifically, students are advised to bring a small bag on the day, within which to place a baseball cap or such, sun cream, sunglasses as appropriate, a long sleeve top or bottoms if they are particularly susceptible to the effects of the sun and, most importantly, water.

The temperatures are forecast to drop on Wednesday and cloud cover to increase. Despite this, staff will persistently stress the importance of remaining hydrated and using the shelter as provided.

The school has taken significant measures relative to the weather to safeguard the well-being of all. Changes to the organisation of the day are in place, activity areas have been altered, additional equipment hired in and staff and students have been briefed accordingly. We will however need the students to take some independent responsibility for their actions on the day. We will encourage and at times direct behaviour, but it will be down to the individual for the most part to ensure that they themselves, take advantage of the shelter provided, remain hydrated, use the sun cream they bring, wear the hat they bring, lunch indoors as appropriate and report to a member of staff if they start to feel any ill-effects of the weather so that we can deal with that accordingly.

The aim of Sports Day has always been to provide a competitive yet inclusive, vibrant celebration of the school's House system through the medium of sport. Sports Day can be the highlight of the school year for many and with the measures outlined above, I am confident that Wednesday will be a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

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