



**PENSBY**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Care Respect Inspire

15 July 2022

**Pensby High School**

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

Dear Parents and Carers

**Activities Day Tuesday 19 July 2022**

I have left this letter to the last possible moment as I have reflected on the weather forecast for Monday and Tuesday next week. An enormous amount of work has gone into the organising of activities day. Non-teaching and teaching staff led by Mrs Davies have spent days and days organising, booking, planning and ultimately paying for coaches, tickets to Alton Towers and the activities onsite; so please believe me that this has not been an easy decision, but I am afraid that I am cancelling all of the activities on Tuesday for Years 8 -10. **The Year 7 residential is unaffected!**

I am sure that you are aware, that for the first time ever there is a red, extreme heat weather warning in England. The area covered directly by this warning moves from just South of London, past Manchester and up to York in the East, with the Western tip currently pushing past Chester to just before the M56, a distance from school of around 12 miles. Year 10 should be going to Alton Towers which currently sits within the red, extreme weather warning. The first bullet point used to describe the red warning on the BBC says, *'Population-wide adverse health effects, not limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat, leading to serious illness or danger to life'* and the bullet points don't get any better as you read down the page. Temperatures at school are predicted to be 35C and hopefully with no further movement of the red warning towards the school we are set to be in the amber zone.

I do realise that for some, the 'predicted' weather suggests a lack of certainty and that the red warning does not mean anything in particular, but the reality is that at 40C the human body starts to struggle and we have staff and students who have really quite significant underlying health conditions. Even at 35C there is a worry given the nature of some of the planned activities. We cannot have students standing for an hour in a queue for a ride in 40C or playing football, running over an inflatable assault course or learning to climb or skateboard in 35C, we would put the children in our care at risk.

We have spent all day trying to think of mitigations, even swapping around vulnerable staff, but the reality is that no matter how many water stations we set up, we cannot change the weather. I do realise that given the cloudy grey skies and what looks like the threat of rain as I sit and type this, the thought of a heatwave does seem somewhat incongruous, but I am also aware that if we do not decide now, some parents and students will spend the weekend worrying, especially given the ever more apocalyptic warnings.

Students will follow the normal pattern for the day, we will set up additional water stations in school and lesson and break pattern will be as normal. Please send the students into school in school uniform, where we will of course reflect on the need to wear blazers etc. throughout the day.

I realise that this will be a huge disappointment and is a rather unbelievable end to what was supposed to be a 'normal' year, I am sorry, but I cannot push this level of risk with the health of staff and children in my care.

We will get back in September and we will go again next year and we will get back to Alton Towers.

Sorry

Yours faithfully

Mr K Flanagan  
Headteacher