Atlantic Academy Portland
an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

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24th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Hot Weather Closure

Each school in the country has been managing the recent period of extreme hot weather according to its own circumstances and buildings. We have carefully assessed the situation as conditions have developed.

As you know, we have done our very best to follow Department for Education (DfE) guidance and keep the Academy open by making sensible adjustments, allowing as many pupils as possible to attend. I have been immensely proud of the way our pupils and staff have managed during these challenging conditions.

However, as temperatures have continued to rise, it has become increasingly difficult to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both pupils and staff, even with the adjustments we have put in place. In light of this, and following the Met Office Red Warning, we have taken the difficult decision to close the Academy on **Thursday 25th June 2026**. The Academy will also remain closed to students on **Friday 26th June 2026** as planned for our scheduled INSET Day.

Thank you for your support and cooperation today. Attendance has been excellent; however, we do not wish to place pupils or staff in uncomfortable classroom conditions and have concluded that opening tomorrow could present a risk to the health and wellbeing of our school community.

We appreciate that this short-notice closure may present challenges for working parents and carers. With this in mind, we will provide a limited on-site provision for families in the Primary Phase where both parents/carers work and alternative childcare arrangements cannot be made at short notice. With a small number of pupils in the Academy we will be able to accommodate them in the coolest parts of the building. To help us assess demand, please complete the Google Form using the link provided here.

Please note that the **Year 11 Leavers' Prom** will go ahead as planned at the **Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy**, with arrivals from **6:00 pm**.

I would like to thank you for your understanding and support during this difficult period. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made only as a last resort. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, I have included a link below containing useful advice on staying safe and well during very warm weather:

https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/06/23/how-to-keep-cool-and-stay-well-during-hot-weather/

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Whilst we understand that keeping cool and safe should be the priority tomorrow, pupils who wish to continue their learning may do so by accessing online platforms such as Sparx, reading independently, or completing any other learning activities provided by their teachers.

Water Safety During Hot Weather

During periods of hot weather, the risk of drowning can increase for children and young people. We encourage all families to take extra care around water and to discuss water safety with their children.

Useful information and resources are available from organisations including:

- Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS)
- RNLI
- HM Coastguard
- National Water Safety Forum
- Child Accident Prevention Trust
- British Red Cross

We encourage parents and carers to review these resources and share the important safety messages with their children.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Miss M Heppell

Principal