



**Etone College**  
[www.etonecollege.co.uk](http://www.etonecollege.co.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

**Keeping Safe Around Open Water**

As we approach the warmer summer months, we would like to remind all families about the importance of water safety. Sadly, there have been a number of tragic water-related incidents involving children and young people across the country in recent weeks, including several fatalities in the West Midlands. Many of these incidents have occurred in rivers, lakes, reservoirs and other open water locations where the dangers can be easily underestimated.

Whilst warm weather can make open water appear inviting, it is important to remember that water temperatures can remain dangerously cold. Even strong swimmers can be affected by cold water shock, hidden currents, sudden changes in depth, underwater hazards and strong winds. These risks can quickly lead to difficulty and place individuals in danger.

We would encourage all parents and carers to speak with their child about making safe choices around water.

**Key messages include:**

- Never enter open water without permission and appropriate supervision.
- Only swim in recognised, lifeguarded locations where swimming is permitted.
- Never swim alone – always stay with others and ensure someone knows where you are.
- Be aware that open water can be much colder than expected, even on hot days.
- Avoid jumping or diving into unfamiliar water due to hidden hazards and changing depths.
- If you find yourself in difficulty in the water, remember the RNLI's advice to Float to Live: tilt your head back, keep your ears submerged, relax, control your breathing and use your hands to help stay afloat until you can call for help or reach safety.

We have been discussing water safety with pupils in school through our assemblies and would be grateful for your support in reinforcing these messages at home. Further information and guidance can be found via the **Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) website** [Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks](#)

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our pupils safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

**Mr I Smith**  
**Headteacher**



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