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22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Following my letter earlier in the week, I am now getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for the planned strike days on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Industrial action by the NEU**

*The National Education Union (NEU) is in a formal trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education because she has failed to give the undertaking sought by the NEU to make available additional and sufficient funds to allow employers to pay a fully funded increase in teachers' pay at a rate greater than inflation (as measured by September 2022 RPI). As you are aware from my letter that I sent on Monday the NEU has announced strike action over pay for its teaching members. The next proposed date for strikes by NEU teachers are:*

- 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Our approach has been governed by the following principles:

To ensure the safety of students and staff, to respect the legitimate right for colleagues to take industrial action, whilst meeting our responsibility to provide as much continuity of education as possible.

Thank you for your patience whilst I have been working with staff to consider Activities Week in light of the NEU announcement at the weekend of two further strike days. I would like to thank the staff at Gordano who over the last few days have given me as much information as possible to allow me to very quickly look at our provision for Activities Week and to ascertain what can and cannot run on the two strike days in line with our risk assessment.

I can now confirm the following;

### **Year 12 Futures Week**

This will go ahead as planned – all students **not** on Gold Duke of Edinburgh or on the HE+ trip to Cambridge (Monday and Tuesday) are expected to attend the full programme. Lloyds Bank have committed to deliver some bespoke employability sessions during this week and we have assured them that they will be delivering to our full Year 12 cohort.

### **Year 10 Work Experience**

Work experience **placements** will go ahead as planned and where possible staff will make phone calls to the employers during the week.

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**LIGHTHOUSE**  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

For those students who have not yet secured a WEX placement we will endeavour to offer an onsite employability programme via IT – this programme will **not** be offered on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July. We will email parents to confirm if their son or daughter is expected on site (we still have some students who have not returned WEX placement paperwork, so we are not able to authorise their attendance at a placement. (Any queries should be addressed to [dcrosby@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:dcrosby@gordanoschool.org.uk) ).

### **Year 9 Arrangements**

All Year 9 residential trips will go ahead as planned.

For those students going to Cardiff Ice Rink on Thursday, this will also go ahead as it is a non-strike day as will their trip on Friday to Mendip Activity Centre.

Students on our Base Activity programme will be in school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, but the school will be closed to them on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July. We will provide online enrichment activities for them to complete at home during these two days.

### **Year 8 Day Trips and Experiences**

The planned Year 8 day trips to St Fagan's, The Portishead Lido, Mendip – Mission Impossible and Adventure Bristol (in-school activity) will go ahead as planned. However, the school will be closed to students on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July for the following tutor groups. This is the day of their in-school activities.

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July: 8B1, 8B2, 8C1
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July: 8L1, 8L2, 8L3

We will signpost students to online enrichment activities to complete at home during these days.

### **Year 8 Base Activity Students**

Students on our Base Activity programme will be in school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, but the school will be closed to them on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July. We will signpost students to online enrichment activities to complete at home during these days.

### **Year 7 Residential Trip to Osmington Bay**

This will go ahead as planned.

### **Year 7 – Circomedia and Wild Place**

These events will go ahead as planned, including on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Year 7 Base Activity Students**

Students on our Base Activity programme will be in school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, but the school will be closed to them on Wednesday and Friday. We will signpost students to online enrichment activities to complete at home during these days.

The arrangements above are subject to change and if we do need to make any changes we will communicate with parents as soon as we can.

For final clarification, the school will be closed on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July** and **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July** to the following students, all other activities will go ahead:

- Year 10 Work Experience placement students who have not secured a WEX placement and who will be in-school during the week

- Year 7, 8 and 9 Base Activity Students
- **On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July** - 8B1, 8B2, 8C1
- **On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July** - 8L1, 8L2, 8L3

Thank you for your on-going support and patience during this time.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell', with a small flourish at the end.

**Louise Blundell**  
**Headteacher**