



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

ADVANCE NOTICE OF STRIKE ACTION

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action, which is due to take place in the Southwest of England on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

The strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues particular to our school. However, I do appreciate that this will be challenging for parents.

We have a significant number of teachers who are members of the NEU. Although we are aware of the overall numbers, the NEU are not obliged to inform us how many of their members intend to strike. As a result, should the strikes go ahead, this will result in very significant disruption and severely compromise our ability to run the school safely. I cannot ask other teachers to cover for staff who are striking as this would be to undermine the strike and teachers' contracts protect them from such actions.

It is therefore likely that the school will only be able to provide a very limited service on any days where the strikes take place. I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education, but I want to give you as much notice as possible of this and, whilst I really appreciate the inconvenience, recommend that you start to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements for these days. It is also worth noting that each school may be in a different position as a result of the number of NEU members in their teaching staff.

If the school is closed for your child(ren) they will be set work that they can undertake remotely, and we will be in touch with any parents or carers where any further support may be required. We will also make sure that students on Free School Meals are able to receive their meals for any days where they are not in school.

As you will have seen, we are far from being in control of this situation. I therefore ask for your understanding as we try to do our best at this difficult time.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements in the days ahead.

Headteacher: Ms L Blundell BMus(Hons) MA

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

e-mail: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (Company Number: 07662102)



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Social Media and Mental Health Assemblies

During this week students in Years 8 to 11 have had assemblies on social media and looking after their mental health this week. Year 7 will have a similar assembly in the coming weeks. Useful links for both students and parents around social media and mental health and online safety are included below:

[The Grown-Up School - How to use social media without hurting your mental health](#)

[Childline - Feeling Good On Social Media](#)

[NSPCC - Keeping Children Safe Online](#)

Parking on site

Parents of sixth form students are reminded that we cannot accommodate any student cars parking on site. Please can we ask you to reinforce this with your children if they have the use of a car to drive to school. Students need to park off site and will need to do this safely and considerately in the roads around school. Thank you for your support here.

Homework

Year 9 and Year 10 will begin to be set compulsory homework on Tuesday 24th January and Thursday 26th January respectively. Students will be supported to organise their time in their tutor periods next week through the completion of paper timetables and will be encouraged to take these home and use them over the fortnight.

This means that from Thursday 26th January all students in the school have compulsory homework that is being set and will appear for both you and your child on the ClassCharts app. A reminder that any student with two or more pieces of homework not submitted/completed by the deadline will need to attend a compulsory intervention, which will be communicated to you and them via the ClassCharts app.

Class Charts

We would be grateful if parents could check Class Charts daily and remind their child of any detentions they may have the following day. If detentions are not attended, they are upscaled to longer detentions, and ultimately a day in Focus. Parental support here would be really appreciated, ensuring our behaviour systems are adhered to and therefore a day out of lessons is avoided.

Warm Spaces

Please see the poster from Portishead Town Council [here](#). This may be of some help to you or those you know during these cold temperatures!

Careers Newsletter

[Careers Newsletter January 2023 edition](#)

Vaccination clinics – Flu and HPV

If your child is in Years 7 to 9 and missed their flu vaccination at school, it's not too late for them to receive their vaccine in one of Sirona's Community Clinics. Further details can be found [here](#).

HPV vaccination catch-up clinics are available for Year 8 students who did not receive their vaccination at school. Please book an appointment [here](#). If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net.

I wish you and your family a wonderful weekend

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell'.

Ms L Blundell
Headteacher