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21st April 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 further strike action, which is due to take place on the following dates:

- Thursday 27th April
- Tuesday 2nd May

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. 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, and I am currently in negotiations with the NEU with regards to planning for students in Year 11 and Year 13. 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 signposted to work that they can undertake remotely. 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.

I thank you 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 towards the start of next week.

Year 8 Guided Choices Evening

Thank you to all our parents and students in Year 8 who joined us last night for our Year 8 Guided Choices evening. It was wonderful to have you on the school site and for you to see and meet our teams. I hope you found the evening helpful.

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Parent Survey

Every year we ask parents / carers to complete a survey about their child / children's experience at school. This takes place across all the schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, gives us valuable information about your views and helps the school to further support students in future. We would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the survey by Friday 12th May. Please do so by clicking the link below:

[Parent Survey](#)

Year 9 Mocks

Mocks are due to run for Year 9 in the week commencing 1st May, in their core subjects of Maths, English and Science. These will run in lessons, in exam conditions and are timetabled as below. Your child's class code (which can be viewed on their timetable on ClassCharts) will begin with an 'R' or an 'L' and this will indicate which 'side' of the year they are on:

Day	Subject	Side of the Year	During which lesson?
Tuesday 2 nd May, periods 1+2	Science	Right	Science
Tuesday 2 nd May, periods 1+2	English	Left	English
Tuesday 2 nd May, periods 3+4	Maths, Paper 1	Right	Maths
Tuesday 2 nd May, periods 3+4	Science	Left	Science
Wednesday 3 rd May, periods 1+2	Maths, Paper 1	Left	Maths
Wednesday 3 rd May, periods 3+4	English	Right	English
Wednesday 3 rd May, periods 5+6	Maths, Paper 2	Right	Maths
Thursday 4 th May, periods 5+6	Maths, Paper 2	Left	Maths/Ethics

In the event of strike action closing the year group on Tuesday 2nd May, the exams timetabled for that day will run as below:

Day	Subject	Side of the Year	During which lesson?
Wednesday 3 rd May, periods 5+6	English	Left	English
Thursday 4 th May, periods 1+2	Science	Left	Science
Thursday 4 th May, periods 5+6	Science	Right	Science
Monday 8 th May, periods 1+2	Maths, Paper 1	Right	Maths

Teachers will have communicated with your child about the topics that they should be revising and work in lessons will be building towards these mocks, but a brief outline of the content is included below for you:

English	Students will be answering a 20-mark, English Language GCSE-style question on a Dystopian extract. They should: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Revise the conventions of Dystopian fiction - what is expected in that genre? what are the typical characteristics? What is the purpose and effect of that genre?- Demonstrate in their writing their ability to evaluate how the extract fits the genre using the 'What, How, Why' paragraph structure.
Maths	All Maths content from Year 9 (topics 1 to 16). Revision list will be posted on ClassCharts.
Science	B1 (Cell level systems), C1 (Particles), P2 (Forces). 20 marks for each subject, Mock lasts 1 hour.

Dance Showcase

Unfortunately, despite best efforts and intentions, regrettably we are having to cancel the dance showcase this year due to staff absence. We will look to a creative solution for the students involved in Term 6 and the Creative Arts Festival, so their hard work is still performed and appreciated. Thank you for your understanding.

I wish all our families a restful and relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely

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

Ms L Blundell
Headteacher