



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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10th March 2023

## Strike Action - Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March

Dear Parents/Carers,

There are two further days of strike action planned by members of the NEU on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. This letter provides important details about the changes to provision on these dates. **Please note that these are not the same as previous strike days.**

As stated in my previous letters, I will always do all I can to keep the school open but at the same time I must ensure that we have adequate staff to protect the health and safety of our pupils.

### Wednesday 15th March

Years 11, 12 and 13 - school remains open as normal

Years 7, 9 and 10 - school will be closed to these years

**Year 8 - Work Shadowing Day** will continue as planned; pupils should still attend their placement. Any pupils without a work placement will be set work to do **at home** on their Year Group Google Classroom.

### Thursday 16th March

Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 - school remains open as normal

Years 7, 8 and 10 - school will be closed to these years

### For year groups in school

Pupils **should attend as normal** on the relevant days.

On Thursday 16th March Year 9 will be having a Careers Day in school. This day has been in our calendar since the beginning of the year and we have a number of interesting visitors coming into the school to run workshops for Year 9 throughout the day. We have run this event for a number of years and had excellent feedback from our pupils.

As on previous strike days, Year 11, 12 and 13 should come prepared to complete independent work should no subject work be set for a specific lesson. They should bring revision materials or other work that they can complete on their own at school.

For 6th Form lessons students will not necessarily be notified in advance if their teacher is present or not. They should attend school as normal, including off-site lessons. If their teacher is absent

*"Pupils flourish, and support each other to succeed" - Ofsted*



then they should use the opportunity to conduct private study on site and should therefore bring any necessary study materials with them. Where appropriate we may authorise 6th Form students to go home to study once we are able to confirm a teacher's absence. This decision will only take place on the day.

There will be a canteen service at break and lunchtime, though the meal selection may be slightly reduced compared with what is usually on offer.

Please note that attendance is compulsory on this day for relevant year groups and absences will be marked as unauthorised unless we have notification of illness.

### **For year groups not in school**

Pupils will be set remote tasks to complete at home. All students have access to Google Classroom and they should log on and access the work following their usual timetable. Teachers will not be delivering 'live' lessons but may be available to answer questions in the Google Classroom.

If no work is posted for a lesson then pupils should use the Department for Education's recommended provider of online learning, Oak National Academy. The website for this is linked here [Oak National Academy](#). Pupils can visit the Classroom pages and select lessons from a menu of subject choices. They can choose lessons linked to the current topics they are studying or lessons that revise topics previously learnt.

### **Free School Meals**

Families of those pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a Tesco voucher. This will be emailed to you separately.

### **Further information**

We are aware that these arrangements will be inconvenient for some families and I do appreciate that some year groups have been more affected than others. I am sure that you will understand the need to prioritise those years who have examinations this summer. We also know that some of our pupils have specific needs and we will be in touch with those families separately to discuss whether special provision may be required for them on these dates. Please do not contact the school requesting that your child has permission to attend school on that day as we cannot accommodate this safely.

As I have written previously, I know that none of our staff would take the decision to strike lightly. You may have seen in the news that the government has refused to negotiate with any of the teaching unions unless the NEU calls off its action, which is a reflection of how willing they really are to try to resolve the very significant issues schools are facing at the moment. It is particularly concerning that the current proposal for teacher's pay next year would not be funded by the government. This would mean that any improvement in teacher's pay would have to be paid for through cuts elsewhere in schools, thus putting schools in an impossible dilemma. The governors and leadership team of the school continue to be gravely concerned at the crisis of funding, recruitment and retention in schools which is affecting **all** the schools in this area and across the country. Once again, I would urge you to contact your local MP to express any views you have about this. Even the shortest email or letter can have an impact. The MP for Welwyn Hatfield is Grant Shapps and he can be contacted as follows:

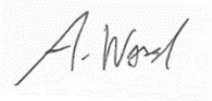
[shappsg@parliament.uk](mailto:shappsg@parliament.uk)

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mr A Wood  
Headteacher