



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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21st April 2023

## Strike Action - Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

Dear Parents/Carers,

There are two further days of strike action planned by members of the NEU on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. 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. I am aware that some year groups have been affected more than others but I am sure you will appreciate the need to prioritise those students who have exams starting in the next few weeks.

- **School will be open to Years 11, 12 and 13 only on both of the above dates.**
- **There will be no school for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on both of the above dates.**

**Mrs Redpath's Year 10 Health & Social Care group should attend school on Thursday 27th April Lessons 1 and 2 only.** This group has missed several lessons on their current BTEC assignment and as this is time-limited it is important that they attend in order to complete the assignment to the required deadline. We ask that pupils in this class arrive by 9 am and leave at breaktime at 10.40 am. If any pupils have any difficulty with these arrangements then they should speak to Mrs Redpath.

### For year groups in school

As on previous strike days, Year 11, 12 and 13 should come prepared to complete independent work should their teacher be absent and 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. Most Year 11 lessons will run as normal but some may have cover staff.

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 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.

*"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"*

### 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 strike dates

You may have seen in the media that the government's pay offer has been rejected by all the teaching unions, not only the NEU. I am aware that the other unions are discussing balloting their members over strike action and so unless this dispute is resolved by the government there is likely to be further disruption over the coming weeks and months.

I am sorry to say that the fact that we have reached this point reflects the fact that the government does not recognise the severe pressures and difficulties schools are facing: inadequate funding, long-term erosion of pay and conditions, staff shortages - the list goes on. All this at a time where the truly disturbing impact of the system of Ofsted inspection on teacher wellbeing is becoming increasingly clear. The offer made to teachers by the Secretary of State for Education clearly failed to address these issues. Of equal concern was the failure to recognise that any pay settlement must be properly funded by the government - if it is not then it will lead to cuts in other aspects of school. Currently the government is not even willing to enter into negotiations with the unions.

As I have written previously, I know that none of our staff would take the decision to strike lightly. They all want what is best for our pupils and that involves a properly funded school system with pay and conditions that will attract the best people to work in it. 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:

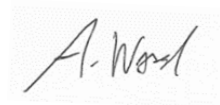
[shappsg@parliament.uk](mailto:shappsg@parliament.uk)

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Yours sincerely,



Mr A Wood  
**Headteacher**