



24 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Information regarding strike action on Thursday 2 March 2023

Unfortunately, there has been no resolution yet of the dispute between the National Education Union (NEU) and Government so we have made plans for Thursday 2 March which is the next date of planned industrial action.

As before our approach, planning and decision making for this date has been led by clear principles: to ensure the safety of students and staff and to meet our responsibility to provide as much continuity of education as possible, whilst respecting the legitimate right for colleagues to take industrial action.

In line with these principles the following decisions have been made for Thursday 2 March:

- Backwell School will be **open** on Thursday 2 March to students in **Years 11, 12 and 13** only and to a small number of students from Years 7 – 10, who have been invited to attend.
  - All Year 11 students should attend school as normal; in full uniform with books/equipment for Thursday Week 2. Attendance is compulsory and where a member of staff is absent from school students will complete revision activities and coursework. Year 11 need to head to assembly in the Sixth Form Theatre at 8.40am.
  - Sixth Form students (Years 12 and 13) should attend school as normal. Where the industrial action means it is not possible for a lesson to take place, sixth formers will undertake private study as would usually happen due to staff absence.
  - We have invited a small group of students from Years 7 – 10 into school on this date. If your child is in this group, you will have already received an email from the school.
  - Students on the school site, including Sixth Formers, will have access to the catering offer from Aspens as usual; this will be served from the Main Canteen (Years 7-11) and the Sixth Form Canteen (Years 12 and 13).
  - North Somerset Council have confirmed that those entitled to home-to-school transport will have their usual provision in place to get to school. Likewise, our out-of-catchment coach service, run by Eagle Coaches, will operate as normal.
- The majority of students in Years 7-10 **will not be able** to attend school and will access work at home via Frog on this date. Students should follow their normal timetable (for Thursday Week 2) and should log on to Frog at the start of the school day.
- Parents/carers with children eligible for Free School Meals will be issued with a voucher, by email, to purchase lunch items for this date - unless the student is expected in school on 2 March (as outlined above).
- Any school clubs scheduled for this day have been cancelled apart from the Sixth Form Jazz Band at lunchtime.

- The Year 9 English trip to see the matinee performance of Noughts and Crosses will also go ahead; parents/carers of those on this trip will be emailed separately regarding the arrangements for this.
- The GCSE Performing Arts Trip to see the evening performance of Noughts and Crosses in Bath will go ahead as planned. [Please check the arrangements on the letter](#) and ensure your child is in school for 5.50pm for a prompt departure.

Backwell School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching and I appreciate that there is likely to be significant inconvenience for carers and parents as a result of the planned action. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

Schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) have been working closely together but the different contexts of the schools, especially in regard to numbers of NEU staff, means that individual school arrangements are not identical.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if things change further. In addition to Thursday 2 March there are two further dates for industrial action (15 and 16 March 2023). If this action goes ahead we will confirm the arrangements for these dates with parents/carers in due course.

Kind regards,



Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher