



9 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Information regarding strike action on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023

As you are aware the National Education Union (NEU) has two further dates scheduled for industrial action: Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023. Unfortunately, there still has been no resolution of the dispute between the NEU and Government so we have made plans for this industrial action.

We have been able to reflect on the previous dates of industrial action and we now know that we have the capacity to safely have Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) plus one other year group on the school site. As before our approach, planning and decision making for these dates 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 – please note that each day is slightly different:

### Wednesday 15 March 2023

- Backwell School will be **open on Wednesday 15 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 Wednesday 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 Performing Arts Trip (Years 10, 11, 12 and 13) to see the matinee performance of The Ocean at the End of the Lane in Bath will [go ahead as planned](#).
- The majority of students in Years 7-10 **will not be able** to attend school on Wednesday 15 March and will access work at home via Frog on this date. Students should follow their

normal timetable (for Wednesday Week 2) and should log on to Frog at the start of the school day.

- Any school clubs scheduled for this day have been cancelled.

### **Thursday 16 March 2023**

- Backwell School will be **open on Thursday 16 March** to students in **Years 10, 12 and 13** only and to a small number of students from Years 7 – 11, who have been invited to attend.
  - All Year 10 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 and trial assessment preparation activities. Year 10 will be sitting some of their trial assessments in the morning and afternoon on this date so will need to have the correct equipment with them. Year 10 need to head to assembly in the Main Theatre at 8.40am.
  - Sixth Form students (Years 12 and 13) should attend school as normal on this date. 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 – 11 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. Please bear in mind that a train strike is also scheduled for Thursday 16 March: if this goes ahead those who have train passes issued by North Somerset Council will be contacted directly with the details on contingency coaches. Sixth Form who use the train will need to find alternative ways to get to school on this date.
- The majority of students in Years 7-9 and 11 **will not be able** to attend school on Thursday 16 March 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.
- The Sixth Form Jazz Band at lunchtime and the Year 10-13 gym session after school will be running but any other school clubs scheduled for this day have been cancelled.

### **Free School Meals**

- Parents/carers with children eligible for Free School Meals will be issued with a voucher, by email, to purchase lunch items for the two strike days - unless the student is expected in school on either the 15 or 16 March (as outlined above).

We continue to be committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and are very aware that this industrial action causes significant inconvenience for carers and parents as a result of the planned action. I 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.

At time of writing these two dates are the final dates of the current planned industrial action. Should the NEU, or another teaching union, call for further strike action we will update you accordingly.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Nunes', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher