

20th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Proposed Strike Action – Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2023

As you are aware there is further industrial strike action currently being planned for **Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2023**. These further two days of strike action are following the National Education Union's (NEU) decision to vote in favour of taking industrial action nationally. We are writing to give you advance notice of our plans for Thursday 27th April. The second of these strikes days follows shortly after and is likely to cause disruption leading to us having to partially close. We will provide more details on Friday 28th April so that we can reevaluate risk between the two dates.

We have continued to receive feedback that providing as much notice as possible is helpful to parents and learners. This must be carefully balanced with accurately ensuring that all pupils have access to the safest and best possible experience and we will continue to risk assess in the run up to and on the 27th April. We will endeavor to keep you informed about any subsequent changes.

Following the previous strike days, we have a better estimation of the extent of the industrial action. At this stage we need to inform you that, to ensure the health and safety of both our staff, pupils and students and given the uncertainty of our staffing levels, we will again need to restrict the number of pupils in school as follows:

Years 7 , 8 and 9

- **On Thursday 27th April, Years 7, 8 and 9 will remain at home** to complete remote learning.
- We will be providing a small provision for our **vulnerable learners** on site where they will be supported to access the resources available to all learners described below.
- Please complete this Google Form by 18:00 on Monday 24th April to request a place in this provision <https://forms.gle/widkSiWTsVvLQQzB7>. We will then be in contact with families on Tuesday to confirm which places are available.

Year 10

- We will be open to **Year 10** pupils. **Year 10 will be required to attend school** in full school uniform and follow their summer exam timetable. This is run by invigilators not taking part in industrial action and we are therefore confident it can be safely staffed.
- These exams are especially important in preparing our pupils for their upcoming GCSE examinations.
- Pupils should meet on the Tennis Courts at 08:45 ready for their morning English exam. This will finish at approximately 11:00 (slightly later for those entitled to extra time) at which point they should make their way home, returning for their other exam later that day.
- For the afternoon Biology exam; pupils should meet on the Tennis Courts at 13:00. We anticipate this exam will finish at approximately 15:00 and pupils will be required to make their way home.

Year 11

- We will be open to **Year 11** pupils. **Year 11 will be required to attend school**, in full uniform, period 2 - 4. Arriving in school for the start of lesson 2 (09:55) and finishing at the end of period 4 (14:05).
- Year 11 pupils will attend normal lessons where possible, following their usual timetable. Where teachers are not available, they will be able to complete revision activities under the supervision of other colleagues in a centrally staffed location.
- A number of pupils have exams taking place on this day which will go ahead.
- **Brune Park students attending their 3D Design exam** should arrive at the exam venue at 08.45. This exam will finish at approximately 3pm.
- **Bay House students attending their Art or Textiles exams** should continue as previously communicated at 08:30 to set up. This will finish at approximately 12:00 and pupils will continue with period 4 inline with the rest of the year group.

Sixth Form

- We will be open to **Upper Sixth** students who will attend normal lessons where possible, following their usual timetable. Where teachers are not available, they will be able to complete private study in the sixth form study spaces. Students may choose to either work independently at home or come into school from 08:55 where supervised independent study will be available. Food is available, students will need to access this from the canteen.
- **Lower Sixth** students should remain at home to complete work independently.

The canteen will be open for all pupils and students on site throughout the day as usual on both days. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals we will be emailing out a voucher to eligible parents of pupils for those year groups who will not be in school.

We understand this is likely to cause significant disruption to families, but we hope that by providing you with advance notice of arrangements, we will be able to minimise the inevitable impact this industrial action is likely to have.

These decisions are particularly difficult and we are pleased to be able to open to some of our learners. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and students and feel that we would be unable to provide this if we remained fully open with the staff we are likely to have available.

We recognise the disruption to you and your child's education this may cause and thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Yours sincerely

The GFM Secondary Leadership Team

Nigel Matthias (Executive Headteacher)

Ryan Peet (Executive Headteacher)

Kerry Payne (Executive Headteacher - Headteacher Brune Park)

Christopher Willis (Executive Headteacher - Headteacher Bay House)

Luke Adderley (Associate Headteacher - Bay House)

Seb Spall (Associate Headteacher - Brune Park)

Remote Learning Guidance for pupils in Years 7-9

Years 7, 8 and 9

Knowledge Organiser revision

Knowledge Organisers are a great resource for revision and practice. You can use any knowledge Organisers that you have to revise your knowledge and identify areas for further practice. Take a section of a knowledge Organiser, read it through, cover it up and see if you can recall this knowledge.

Individual Google Classrooms

Please use your own online classroom space to catch up on any lessons missed and use the resources to revise recent learning.

OAK National Academy

You can use this site to find some lessons linked to your current learning in each subject. Some lessons that would be supportive are

English

- [Introduction to Poetry](#)
- [Epic Poetry](#)
- [Past simple tense, subordinate clauses, punctuating conjunctions and lists](#)
- [Language Skills - Non-Fiction - Reading](#)
- [Fiction: Reading and descriptive writing](#)

[Maths](#). Select any topics you would like to practice or improve

Science

- [Cells](#)
- [Atoms and the Periodic Table](#)
- [Energy](#)

PSHRE

- [Respectful relationships: Respect and friendship](#)
- [Internet safety and harms: Reality vs the online world](#)

Learning apps

All pupils will have login details to the following learning apps to support revision and practice;

- Sparx Maths
- Bedrock
- LanguageNut

Individual Google Classrooms

Please use your own online classroom space to catch up on any lessons missed and use the resources to revise recent learning.

Learning apps

All pupils will have login details to the following learning apps to support revision and practice;

- GCSEPod
- KayScience

CareerPilot <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

Learners can use this site to research different careers and the routes into them. There are assessment tools to identify your strengths and careers that will make good use of these.