



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Parent Bulletin

27th January 2022

Information

Dear Parents

Industrial Action

As many of you will be aware, the largest teaching union, the National Education Union (NEU) has called for strike action on the 1st February 2023. St George's has 43 members of staff who are members of this union. This represents over 50% of teaching staff. The Government has required me to consider whether it is possible to keep school open for as many pupils as possible. Within this consideration I need you to understand that:

- I can ask non striking staff to undertake cover for their striking colleagues, but I cannot compel them to.
- I cannot ask non striking staff to provide cover work for those members who are taking industrial action.
- I need to consider whether I can run a school site which is safe and secure for all. This would involve the considerations of an appropriate level of staff to pupil ratio on duty at lunch time and break times as well as the more formal teaching times. Again I can ask but not compel staff to cover for striking colleagues.
- Staff who are undertaking Industrial action cannot be compelled to share with me what their intentions are; and they are totally at liberty to make this decision even on the day of industrial action, without notifying the school.
- I can ask a cover supervisor to undertake a cover for a striking colleague, but there would be no work set for the lesson needing to be covered.
- Our ability to open the site may well be impacted on the day if staff with young children find they have one-off childcare needs as a result of primary school closures.

In light of the information I have received, and from the criteria that I have to take into account of in my decision making, I have made the decision to close school to year groups 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, remaining open only for those pupils in Year 12 and 13

Students in year groups 12 and 13 are expected to attend school, at the usual time, in full school uniform.

Year 12 and 13 students will need to swipe in to register when they come onto site in the morning. A register will be taken at any scheduled lesson if a teacher is present. If no teacher is present, they should work on their ongoing tasking, either in that classroom, in 6th form study or art / tech: the only students who should be in the refectory in lesson time are those that would have a non-contact period in that slot on a normal Wednesday. The library will not be available as it will be used by boarders.



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6th Form Games - students should come to school prepared to participate in a Games lesson as per their normal timetable.

- The sixth form refractory will be open as will the main dining room for lunch (this may be with a reduced service)
- No school extra-curricular activities will run on this day, either at lunchtime or after school.

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty around staffing levels on this day, Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 and 11 will follow a remote independent learning programme on Wednesday 1 February. Students will not attend school. Students whose teacher is working normally will be set work by that teacher. Where a child's teacher is taking industrial action no work will be set by them.

Google Classroom will be our primary resource for sharing work with students.

Boarders will be supervised during the day and will be provided with a suitable place to study.

Free School Meals:

Students in receipt of free school meals who will not be in school on Wednesday 1 February will be able to take home a packed lunch on Tuesday 31 January. Please contact Admin@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk clearly indicating whether you require a **meat or vegetarian option**, should you wish for this to be provided for your eligible child before the end of school on **Monday 30 January. The child should report to the Dining Room at 3.20pm on Tuesday.**

D of E Presentation Evening for Year 11

This event is still able to go ahead on 1st Feb in spite of the industrial action by some members of staff.

Could your child be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Qualifying Benefits:

Income Support · Income based Jobseekers allowance · Income-related Employment and Support Allowance · Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 · The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit · Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year) · Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit · Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 a year after tax and not including any benefits you get). This includes those who had free school meals whilst on Universal Credit before April 1st 2018 even if earnings are above that £7400 figure.

Why apply for a FSM?

·Your child will receive a healthy nutritional meal · It will not cost you a penny · Applying is quick and easy

How do I Apply?



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Apply by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals and selecting the following tab. (You will need your National Insurance Number or Home Office number to hand).

Sixth Formers Swiping in and Out

Sixth formers have been repeatedly reminded to swipe in and out of school using their ID badges. This is a vital part of our safeguarding measures and we monitor this very closely.

As of Monday, any student who fails to sign-in and out in the correct manner will receive a sanction and will be treated as truancy. Please remind your young people to wear their badges at all times and if they forget their badge they should get a temporary badge from Goddard Reception.

Year 9 GCSE options - online form to be completed by Friday 10th February.

Following Year 9 parents' evening, the Year 9 GCSE Options form is now 'live' on the school website. Please ensure you complete the form with a parental email address which the school has on its records. You will receive an email receipt of your submission. The deadline for completion of the form is midday on Friday 10th February.

<https://www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-and-learning/year-9-options>

Library Hosts Chinese New Year Celebrations!

A huge thank you to all those students who helped decorate the school library to celebrate Chinese or Lunar New Year which fell on January 22nd this year. The library was a hive of activity, with students creating some fabulous Chinese lanterns, dragons (initiating a competition for the longest dragon!), as well as producing some fabulous artwork. It all looks amazing and so vibrant! Celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 5th, so our decorations will be cheering up the Library until then.

Caroline Marshall, Librarian





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Actions

Order a packed lunch for your child for Wednesday 1st Feb if you are eligible for a Free School Meal - Deadline end of school MONDAY 30th. Requests made via Admin@stgeorghes.herts.sch.uk. You must clearly state your child's name and whether they require a meat or vegetarian option.

Thoughts

I experienced kindness and compassion this week. On a busy ward; with multiple things going on; in amongst an ever changing range of people who all need an investment of time and energy and where difficult decisions are being made..... someone noticed that I needed support and made me a cup of tea. I wonder in our busy lives if we would notice what may seem insignificant to others and in doing so undertake a simple act of kindness that can speak volumes into someone else's day. Our challenge this weekend is to do just that, as in doing so we can make the world a better place.

Miss B

Signposting (click on each to find out more)

PLAYING OUR PART TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



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DOGGY FUN DAY

HOSTED BY THE MAYOR OF HARPENDEN



IN AID OF
THE MAYOR'S
CHARITIES

ROTHAMSTED PARK
SATURDAY 18 MARCH,
11AM-2PM

FOR INFO ABOUT THE DAY VISIT:
WWW.HARPENDEN.GOV.UK



Essex & Herts
Air Ambulance
Your local life-saving charity

Charity Number: 193089



**HARPENDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

