

www.burscoughprioryacademy.org Headteacher Mrs L MacLaren

Ref: 3391a LMA

21 April 2023

Summer Term – Diary Dates, Industrial Action Provision & UK Emergency Alert Test

Dear Parent,

Calendar Dates

In summary: Thursday 27 April – Industrial Action by the NEU Monday 1 May – Early May Bank Holiday (school is closed for all staff and students) Tuesday 2 May – Industrial Action by the NEU Thursday 4 May – Year 8 & 9 HPV Vaccinations Monday 8 May – Extraordinary Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III (school is closed for all staff and students) Tuesday 9 – 12 May – Year 10 Work Experience Thursday 11 May – Year 8 Parents' Evening Monday 15 May – GCSE Examinations start (lunch split will change to 3:2 – served at 12.10pm) Thursday 25 May – Year 7 Parents' Evening Friday 26 May – School closes for Half Term at 3.15pm

Industrial Action

We have a high number of staff that in the NEU and because of this there will be major disruption to our school provision on the strike days noted above. We have completed a detailed risk assessment considering the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of our children, staff and visitors. It is important to reiterate that this is not industrial action against the school, it is as part of a schedule of national action - the strike is because the NEU has a dispute with the Secretary of State for Education.

As a result of this assessment, on Thursday 27 April and Tuesday May 2, we will offer provision to cater for:

1. Year 11. Attendance is mandatory and all students are expected to attend. Year 11 will be taught by their subject teachers if they are in school. Students should be prepared for all of their lessons and bring revision materials and homework to use and complete in the case of their teacher not being in school. As normal, students will be supervised at all times.



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2. Year 10. Attendance is mandatory and all students are expected to attend. Year 10 will, on both dates, complete their Practice Examinations.

On Thursday 27 April this will be for examinations in Physics at 8.50am and Spanish at 11.10am. We have reordered the exams on this day so that all students are in school at the start of the day. Students who do not study Spanish will leave school once the Physics exam is complete. Those who study both Physics and Spanish will leave site when the second examination (Spanish) is complete, just before lunchtime. On the day, after each exam, we will send a text message to all parents of Year 10 students to notify the end times of the exams and when the students are leaving the school site.

3. *The individual needs of a small number of children in Year 7 and 8 particularly*. If your child is in this group, like last time, you will receive an email with an invite into school and a link to an online form to register to confirm that your child is accepting or declining the offered place. This means everyone is accounted for and we know exactly who we will expect to attend, at 8.45am.

This means that for all other students in Year 7, 8 and 9 school will be closed and homework will be their priority for the day. When Year 10 are not in school for examinations, they should be revising and preparing for their other exams.

On both days, the school buses will run a service normal. Breakfast and Homework Club are postponed. In the morning, students in Year 11 and 10 should wear their full school uniform and line up on the yard as is normal. Those children in Year 7 and 8 who have a confirmed place should also wear their full school uniform and report to Reception at the start of the day. A break and lunchtime service will be available for all students.

Free School Meals

Students who are eligible for free school meals (who are not in school) will have the opportunity to order one for both lunchtimes - this must be pre ordered in advance and collected from school on both days 12.30pm. Please see the email that follows with a personalised link to complete an order for lunch.

Remote Learning

In line with the guidance from the Department for Education, the curriculum will be paused for students in Year 7 -10 and resume when school reopens. This means that homework and independent study are the priority for our students. They should be directed to work recorded on ClassCharts; the purpose of the work is so that they can practise and embed knowledge and skills in these subjects:

Year 7, 8 & 9		Year 10	
1.	Homework set on ClassCharts	1.	Homework set on ClassCharts
2.	Read & Watch lists for other subjects	2.	Personalised revision
3.	Reading for pleasure	3.	Read & Watch lists for other subjects
		4.	Reading for pleasure



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Every school in the country, not least in our Trust, is in a completely unique position. Our plan is specific to the circumstances we risk assessed today, 20.4.23. Further to note, we understand that talks may continue between the trade union and the representatives of the Secretary of State in the coming days and should there be any update or change, we will confirm this in writing. To be sensible, we will review the provision that we make on the first strike day and contact parents if there are any changes to the plan. We anticipate that in line with our risk assessment, the arrangement will be the same on the second-strike day, but it would be remiss of us not to complete a review.

National Test of the UK Emergency Alert Service

This weekend, on Sunday 23 April at 3.00pm, there will be a national test of the UK Emergency Alert and there is an official factsheet that is also attached. Mobile phones (and possibly some tablets) will sound and you will hear a loud siren-like sound and vibration for up to 10 seconds. A message will appear on the screen and you must acknowledge it before you can use other features on the device. Only the government and the emergency services will be able to send them and only in the circumstances that are outlined.

The government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert – this means that students may receive the alert as well. To be fully informed and prepared, students have completed some work during tutor time today about this. <u>Here</u> is a link to the UK government website and another link to the <u>Newsround</u> piece which is very informative but also user friendly.

There has been widespread publicity about the potential impact that the emergency alert may have on those experiencing domestic abuse - sometimes survivors will use another phone which can be hidden. From Refuge, who support survivors, the advice is to opt out of receiving the alerts altogether - this means that a phone will not alert. If this is not possible, switch off the phone or put it in airplane mode. Here is the <u>Refuge Tech Safety Emergency Alerts Advice</u> and it includes the instructions about how to manage technology to opt out of receiving alerts.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your support to ensure your child is well prepared for the new term. We have had a fantastic start to the summer term, helped of course by plenty of sunshine. Your understanding and your respectful communication about all of the arrangements that are outlined in this letter continues to be much appreciated and reflects this fantastic community. If you have any questions about any part of the letter, please do hesitate to get in touch with us.

E Pluribus Unum.

Yours faithfully, *L MacLaren* Headteacher



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