



27 June 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **School closure on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> & Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Students in Years 7 to 10 due to Industrial Action**

Further days of industrial action have been declared by the NEU as the on-going national dispute between the unions and the government continues. The dispute remains to be based around ensuring there is enough money available to pay a fully-funded increase in pay for teachers which at least matches inflation, and which begins to restore lost pay. I would like to remind you this is not because of any issues at our school. As you are aware, this dispute has not been resolved at the time of writing this letter.

We want to continue to provide timely information of our decisions regarding the logistics of these days so that you can plan any childcare arrangements you require. I can confirm that **on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> & Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, The John of Gaunt School will be closed to students in Years 7 to 10** but will remain partially open to pupils in Year 12 who do not have work experience. However, we will be offering remote provision to Yr7-10 pupils whose class teachers are not striking.

We have not taken this decision lightly and are acutely aware of our legal responsibilities surrounding these events as well as considering every child within our school community. We are working hard to implement the best provision we can.

As an establishment, we are not entitled to instruct members of staff to inform us whether they are striking or not, therefore, we cannot plan a safe and secure environment for in-school provision on a large scale. However, if teaching staff do attend school, they can deliver lessons to their classes but no others. These staff members will, therefore, be delivering their classes on-line. Can I request that pupils and parent/carers do not ask staff whether they will be delivering lessons on these days.

During the two days of industrial action, pupils will need to log onto Teams for each lesson. If their teacher is attending school they will deliver a 45-minute lesson, if they are not then pupils will need to access the remote learning links for the relevant subject on our website (see links below). The 45 minutes provides time away from screens and break before the next lesson or session of remote independent study.

Pupils will now be aware of how to use but they can ask their tutor or year team if they need a refresher or an introduction on how to use Teams. We have a presentation that will be available again on Class charts to pupils and parents/carers. We ask all pupils to open Teams before the strike day to ensure they can access lessons at home and seek support if they require it from our IT team. Please note their email address: [ITsupport@jogschool.org](mailto:ITsupport@jogschool.org)



Please contact your pastoral year team if you do not have a device to access Teams, we will support where we can.

For any students entitled to Free School Meals the school will load £5.20 onto your child's school meals account on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July. This allowance can be used at any time but if you choose they can purchase something on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July to bring home.

Should you wish to access online learning resources to support your child during the day you may find the following websites useful:

- Remote Learning on the school's website (including links to exam board past paper questions and mark schemes): <https://www.johnofgauntschool.org/students/remote-learning>
- The Oak National Academy:  
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-3>  
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4>
- BBC Bitesize:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jimp3>

We continue to work in close partnership with all members of our school community during these challenging times. Please do contact the school if you require support or further information, we will ensure you are directed to the relevant colleague.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Rhodes  
Headteacher