



The Gordon Schools  
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02 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **UNISON Trade Union industrial action within schools: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September**

I am writing in connection with the industrial action involving some school support staff that is due to take place across Aberdeenshire on September 6, 7 and 8 (Tuesday to Thursday inclusive, next week).

While the full impact of the action will not be known until the dates given above, we have undertaken detailed risk assessments to determine our ability to open to pupils on those days. I have made the following decisions this week as I wanted to give you as much notice as possible of where we currently are.

In terms of our School's operation on these dates, I have decided that The Gordon Schools will be able to remain open to all staff but we can only open to pupils in S4, S5 and S6 on September 6, 7 and 8. On those days, we will have a home learning offer on-line for our S1, S2 and S3 pupils, who should not attend at School.

The reason for this is the knock-on effect of the industrial action, meaning that a significant minority of teaching colleagues will not be able to attend work due to their own childcare commitments. This in turn would have meant too many classes without their regular teacher and not enough teaching colleagues to cover those classes.

For those pupils and colleagues in the building, there will also be some service disruption resulting in adjustments to the school day on these dates, such as the unavailability of some internal services, but otherwise we hope to operate as close to normally as possible.

### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

For S1, S2 and S3 pupils, If your child is entitled to statutory free school meals, you will receive a direct payment into your bank account. For school closures planned in advance, the Council aim is to make the payments within the same week.



For S4, S5 and S6 pupils, if your child is entitled to statutory free school meals, payment will continue to be available on the National Entitlement Card as normal. If for any unforeseen reason a closure happens on a day(s) of the strike action, payments in lieu of any meal(s) may take until the following week to come into your account.

### **School Lets in the Evening**

All school lets in the building will be cancelled for 6, 7 and 8 September due to the strike action as we are unable to guarantee that enough staff will be available to support venues on these days. The council is contacting all affected groups and sessions will need to be re-organised for another time.

I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and support while the industrial action takes place. Apologies for any and all inconvenience that you might experience.

We will continue to monitor the situation and, should there be any additional impacts on the days of action, I will be back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Gaiter  
Rector