



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/parentupdatesApril 23

Thursday, 20 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Update letter

I hope that all families enjoyed a restful Easter break and managed some quality time either at home or away with wider family and friends. As we approach the end of the first week back, I wanted to provide several updates for all families at the start of the new term:

- **National Industrial Strike Action – Thursday, 27 April and Tuesday, 2 May 2023.** Following ongoing negotiation with the Government, you will be aware that following previous strike action, members of the NEU have called further days of industrial action on Thursday, 27 April and Tuesday, 2 May 2023. This is national action and follows on from previous days which have impacted on all schools throughout the country.

I will be providing detailed information shortly however, you should be aware that school will be partially closed for most students. Sixth form and Year 11 students will be required in school, alongside some identified groups of students who will be involved in targeted intervention work.

It should be noted that NEU guidance to all schools provides dispensation to minimise disruption for year 11 and 13 students who are preparing for final examinations. Any examinations or formal assessments arranged for this day (eg. MFL speaking examinations) are not affected and will take place as planned.

- **Bridgnorth 6th Form Developments.** You may be aware that there was some publicity regarding Bridgnorth 6th Form and its curriculum offer for student who will start courses with us in September 2023. This follows communication to our Year 11 students and families regarding a reduced offer for September 2023 (<http://oldburywells.com/media/48803/6th-form-parent-ltr-mar23.pdf>).

Following subsequent communication from parents, I wanted to reassure and clarify our position regarding 6th form at Oldbury Wells. For the current year 11 the offer is reduced for the reasons outlined in the attached information, however, no decision has been made as to the long-term future of the 6th form with concerns raised over possible future closure of this provision. There has been a commitment from Trustees to explore the 6th Form offer in the near future, during which parents will of course be consulted. This consultation would have no impact on current 6th Form students or further impact on those joining us in September 2023.

We will obviously keep all families updated with any developments.

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- **National Emergency Alert Test System.** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/time-set-for-uk-emergency-alerts-test>. Schools have been asked to further support communication regarding the National Emergency Alert Test System.

On Sunday, 23 April 2023 a message will be received on 4G and 5G mobile phones, along with sound and vibration for up to 10 seconds. The alert system will be used going forward to warn residents of major weather events or any other danger to life, health or property.

A number of professional bodies who support families have highlighted that there may be need in some cases for individuals to opt out of the alert test and have provided guidance on the following site: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-victims-urged-to-disable-governments-emergency-alert-system/>

- **School Uniform.** At we start the new term, we will as always be promoting our high standards regarding school uniform. We will be communicating additional information regarding this, however please note that detailed information is provided on the school website: <https://www.oldburywells.com/parentguardian-information/uniform>.
- **Supporting Students involved in final examinations.** I would like to wish all students involved with any formal examinations good luck in the weeks ahead. I know how hard students and staff have been working to prepare fully for exams and look forward to everyone's support to ensure the very best outcomes for all those concerned. All students in school should be aware of areas being used for examinations, and support those involved by responding to the signage showing where areas of silence should be maintained.

For those involved with examinations, we will continue to communicate all detailed arrangements to ensure they are fully supported throughout the examination window.

- **The Term ahead.** Alongside formal examinations, we have a busy term ahead. We will be welcoming year 6 students into the school who will be joining us in September while asking support from those in school to help with their transition. Year 9 will be receiving feedback on their GCSE options while Year 10 and 12 are involved in end of year examinations and work experience. In addition, our normal Summer term events and activities are all scheduled over the weeks ahead providing many opportunities within lessons and through a variety of trips and visits away from the classroom.

We look forward to supporting all students to maximise their progress and ensure their continued development within their subject lessons and as part of their personal development and wellbeing.

Thank you to all families for your ongoing support working in partnership with the school. We look forward to celebrating all our students' achievements in the time ahead.

Wising everyone all the very best for the Summer term!

Yours faithfully



Lee Tristham
Headteacher