

27th January 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

When I wrote to you last week I explained that we would be taking some time to make an informed decision regarding the strike action that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared for teaching staff in both February and March. I have consulted with my staff who either intend to strike or have primary aged children of their own where their schools will be closed.

By way of reminder, the NEU have informed the Government that the following dates will likely be affected by strike action:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

While the planned action is as a result of a national dispute between the unions and the Government, and not the school, it is important that we respond accordingly in the interests of our students whilst respecting the rights of our staff. Therefore, my aim is to give you as much notice as possible of the likely impact of the strike action on the school. Whilst the March dates are still some way ahead of us, I am able to let you know what our plan is for Wednesday 1st February.

For the first planned day - Wednesday 1st February, I have decided to remain open for the following year groups:

- **Year 7**
- **Year 11**
- **Year 13**

When planning our on-site provision, we have prioritised students in both Year 11 and 13, who are preparing for exams this summer, and we will run in-person classes for these year groups on 1st February. On this day, Year 11 and 13 students are expected to attend school as normal. It is vital that they attend on those days as key preparation will be delivered alongside face to face “normal” lessons. I have also included year 7 students as the youngest members of our community.

All other year groups will be required to remain at home for that day. Work will be provided via Google classroom and we will be supporting children to be able to access this. These will not be live lessons and so children can complete the work throughout the day. If your child does not have access to a laptop, it is important that they make their Raising Standards Leader aware of this so that paper copies of the work can be provided. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide chromebooks for students to take home.

Raising Standards Leaders/Pastoral Support Leaders:

Year 8: Ms Tebbut & Ms Mayzes

Year 9: Ms Tangi & Ms Mayzes

Year 10: Mr Southby & Mrs Kane

Year 12: Mr Naidoo & Mrs Rogers/Mrs Taylor

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Headteacher: Mrs Alex O'Donnell
Company Registration Number: 7348231

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For a small group of students with specific needs, we will provide the option of onsite provision so that they can carry out the remote work under supervision. If your child is identified as requiring this need, we will contact you separately to confirm arrangements.

FSM Pupils that are not attending on the strike day will be issued with a voucher, these will be forwarded shortly.

We appreciate that industrial action is disruptive and you may need to change your plans or working arrangements whilst this action is ongoing. If the strike action is called off then we will confirm this as soon as we have been notified and, in this eventuality, the school will be open as usual to all students.

As I explained at the start of this letter, the NEU has indicated that there is further strike action planned for the 2nd March and 15th - 16th March. Please make a note of these dates now and I will write to you in advance of each date to confirm any changes to arrangements and whether the strike is going ahead.

If you have any questions or concerns about the alternative arrangements outlined above, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely



Alex O'Donnell
Executive Headteacher

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