

24th February 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

When I wrote to you in January, 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. 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:

- 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. The plan below is based upon my understanding of who is striking. Should these numbers change, I will revise my plans accordingly.

**For the next planned day -Thursday 2nd March, I have decided to remain open for the following year groups:**

- **Year 7**
- **Year 8**
- **Year 11**
- **Year 13**

When planning our on-site provision, we have prioritised students in both Year 11 and 13, who are undertaking vital mock exams. On this day, Year 11 and 13 students are expected to attend school as normal as they have exams scheduled for that day. They will sit their morning exam and be dismissed after lunch at 1.30pm. They are then able to leave school to return home.

Year 7 & 8 students will remain in school all day.

By way of advanced notice, if the proposed strike goes ahead on 15th & 16th March, year 7 will be asked to remain at home for both days and we will aim to invite another year group in. This, I hope, will give parents ample time to make childcare arrangements where necessary. I hope that the strike situation will be resolved by then but I wanted to ensure you were given as much notice of my plans.

On the 2nd March, 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

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.

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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