



30th January 2023

Dear Parents / Guardian,

You may be aware from media coverage that National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action, which will take place on **Wednesday 1st February 2023, Wednesday 1st March 2023, Thursday 15th March 2023 and Friday 16th March 2023** which will have an impact on schools in our area. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over pay. As I have previously stated, the anticipated disruption is not as simple as taking into consideration which members of our teaching staff decide to go onto strike, as many of our teachers and support staff will also be impacted themselves due to school closures that affect their own children. This is an invidious situation for both parents and the school.

I am writing to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for **Wednesday 1st February**. We have not yet planned a response on the **other anticipated strike days** because we hope to learn from the first strike and the amount of disruption caused on this day.

Wednesday 1st February: School Open to Year 11, Y12 and 13 only, with Y7-Y10 completing online learning.

The school will be open to **Year 11 students** who will follow a bespoke timetable that will be shared with you on Tuesday 31st January 2023. On arrival, Year 11 will report to the **Drama Studio** for assembly and registration. We will make available, the **Sixth Form Common Room** for students in **Year Y12 and 13** who will use this space to register. During the day, Y12 and Y13 will follow their normal timetabled lessons. Where a teacher is absent (for Y12 and Y13), a supervised independent space will be made available in D110. We have prioritised Year 11, Year 12 and 13 groups due to national examinations.

In addition, we will make provision in school for **all students** with **Education Health and Care Plans, those eligible for Free School Meals** and those whom our **Safeguarding Team** have identified to attend school so that they can complete online work in school, with support. In addition to this, we can offer a supervised space for any child that does not have access to ICT at home. Please complete the link [here](#), if your child(ren) fits any of this criteria and you would like them to attend. Please note, we will not be offering taught lessons for Y7-Y10. This will be supervised independent work. Break and lunches for all children in attendance will be will as normal.

We will set work for **all other year groups** on Teams, and this will be remote online learning, with the expectation that this work will be completed at home. Whilst we have successfully delivered education in this scenario before, we cannot provide live, remote lessons because we will not have capacity for this provision based on anticipated disruption. We will write to you again tomorrow with links to the remote learning sessions and a timetable for each year group.

- Students who attend school will be expected to follow the normal times of the school day
- Students will be able to access our catering services at both break and lunchtime, as normal
- There will be no extra-curricular classes offered on this day to reflect limited capacity
- Uniform must be worn by all students in school

I am sorry if you must make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand your inevitable frustration and I share it. We are working closely with our staff union representative to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you if arrangements change further. However difficult, we must all continue to work together; no one in our community will gain from division and we must all hope for a national resolution to this dispute so that our students do not face further disruption.

Kind regards

Miss Crehan
Principal