

23rd January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Planned strike action by the National Education Union

Further to my letter last week a reminder that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action, which is currently planned to take place on the following dates.

- Wednesday 1st February 2023
- Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

in line with the Department for Education's advice, should we need to either fully or partially close, we will apply the principles set out in the DfE's emergency planning and response guidance by giving priority to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and then, if possible, those sitting public examinations this summer.

If you are a critical worker and would like your child to be in school on these dates, please can you follow the link below and complete the form to alert us of your intention that they will be in school. Whilst we are committed to opening, staffing levels may not be able to accommodate your child and therefore I hope before the end of this week to respond to clarify our situation.

<https://forms.gle/kv3aBgDa2wAUdTDz7>

I remind you that members of the NEU are not required to let us know in advance whether they intend to be away from school on the planned days of strike action. This means until the day of the strikes, I will not know for certain whether we will be able to run the school as we normally would. It means the above guidance from the DfE is difficult to implement. I must assess the risk based on the number of teachers present in school to the number of students. This will be challenging to do without prior notice and therefore I will have to make a judgement in advance. By law I am also not allowed to direct teaching staff remaining in school to cover for striking absent colleagues. Therefore, please plan to keep your children at home on this day unless I inform you differently. Striking staff will not set work for students to do in their absence.

The DfE have changed the rules so it is now possible for employers to engage with agency staff to replace the work of those taking official strike action. However, I need to stress that the availability of agency teaching supply staff is scarce at the best of times and I would imagine near impossible to obtain on strike days.

Students that we ask to remain home on these days will be set work to complete via 'Show My Homework' if their teachers are not striking. Students in school may not necessarily be able to follow their normal curriculum. Students at home will not have access to online teaching from teaching staff as this takes considerable time to set up and without knowing which staff will be on strike or not on any given day extremely difficult to arrange. In addition to teacher setting work on 'Show My Homework' our website has a lot of additional learning available, follow the Curriculum tab and then Home Learning and then to each relevant year group.

I apologise that you may have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they may experience further disruption to their education but I hope that in communicating the uncertainty of the situation at this stage this will enable you to make arrangements.

I will inform you as soon as possible if or when I know further details and hope that a resolution can be reached between the NEU and the Government as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Term and Important Dates 2022 – 2023

	Monday 19 th December 2022 to Monday 2nd January 2023	Christmas Holiday
Spring Term	Tuesday 3rd January 2023	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 4 th January 2023	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 12 th January 2023	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Tuesday 31 st January 2023	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Wednesday 1 st February	<i>Proposed Strike Day by National Education Union</i>
	Friday 10 th February 2023	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th February 2023	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 20 th February 2023	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 2 nd March	<i>Proposed Strike Day by National Education Union</i>
	Thursday 9 th March 2023	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Wednesday 15 th March	<i>Proposed Strike Day by National Education Union</i>
	Thursday 16 th March	<i>Proposed Strike Day by National Education Union</i>
	Thursday 23 rd March 2023	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 31 st March 2023	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.
	Monday 3 rd April to Friday 14 th April 2023	Easter Holiday
Summer Term	Monday 17 th April 2023	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Tuesday 18 th April 2023	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 27 th April 2023	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Monday 1 st May 2023	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Monday 8 th May 2023	School Closed for Bank Holiday (King's Coronation)
	Friday 27 th May 2023	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June 2023	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 5 th June 2023	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Friday 21 st July 2023	Last Day of Term for students. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.