

27th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Planned strike action by the National Education Union

As you will be aware from my previous letters and media coverage 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

The strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the NEU and the Government over teachers' pay, their loss of earnings over the last 11 years and the impact of funding on schools generally. The Government is still engaging in talks with the NEU so hopefully a resolution can be found which will mean any strike action will be cancelled. However, as we get ever closer to Wednesday 1st February this looks unlikely. After conducting a risk assessment based on the knowledge, I have about my staff's intention to strike I am sorry to say the school will be partially closed on 1st February.

- In line with the Department for Education's advice I have offered places to parents who are critical workers. Thank you to those parents that have notified us by the deadline that you wish to send your children in. Places will be provided for your child. Also, we will provide places for vulnerable students, you will have been contacted in person and if you expressed your desire that they do attend this is fine. Therefore, these students should attend school as normal on 1st February. Students will not follow the normal curriculum.
- The School will also be open as normal for Year 12 and 13 students. Some lessons may be cancelled though, and students should bring enough work to complete independently during these times.
- The school will also be open for Year 11 students who will follow their normal timetable. I have secured agency staff to cover some lessons which would otherwise be cancelled. However, staff are not allowed to set work for these lessons so students should bring in revision or reading materials to work on during these times. At this stage Year 11 may need to be dismissed at 2.20pm. I will know more on the day itself and we will contact parents if this is the case.

Please be aware that these arrangements may change as I know more information.

- ***Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 must remain home on these days.*** Teachers that are not striking will set work to complete via '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 am sorry 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 will enable you time to make arrangements. I am sorry that this situation is frustrating.

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