

20th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope all parents and students had a lovely half term holiday.

Planned strike action by the National Education Union (NEU)

Thank you for your cooperation on Wednesday 1st February when the school had to partially close due to strike action by members of the NEU. We were able to follow the Department for Education's advice by giving priority to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and then, if possible, those sitting public examinations this summer. For Wexham this meant Years 11 and 13 were able to attend school. We were also able to have Year 12 in due to their age, and different regulations regarding supervision.

Regrettably there seems to have been no positive progress at this stage in talks between the government and unions. Therefore, the planned strike days already announced look very likely to impact again on the provision I can provide.

At this stage it looks highly likely the school will partially close again on **Thursday 2nd March**. We will most likely follow the same offering as before, however, I will write nearer the time to clarify this.

Spring Term

It has been a very busy first half of the Spring Term this year. I do not normally write about school events as these appear on our twitter feed, but I felt it appropriate to share with you the breadth of activities that take place. We have had many trips and visits, these include visits to the Shaftesbury Theatre, Victoria and Albert Museum, a residential revision weekend, Geography fieldtrips and forthcoming trips to Cambridge, Reading and Brunel Universities, France and more. We have had successful interform competition, many sports fixtures and I am very proud that some of our Autistic Base students are yet again Boccia Borough Champions and will represent Slough at the county championships.

We have also had activities linked to the Knife Angels visit to Slough to raise awareness of knife crime, Safer Internet Week, a group of year 8 students commencing their Bronze Industrial Cadet Programme, which is part of our Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) initiative. As part of our work in STEM a lot of enrichment has taken place over the last year and we will be very pleased to be hosting the Head of UK Assets and Estates for Tesco who will meet our sixth form students soon. A known author will be visiting the school this term as well.

It has always been my mantra to provide as many learning opportunities as possible, its excellent that such a wide range are once again available as we move further on from the pandemic.

Last Day of Term / Start of New Term

Friday 31st March is the last day of the Autumn Term. The School will operate its customary compact day and will close at 1pm. The School will reopen to all students on Tuesday 18th April at the normal time.

Mobile Phones

Mobile Phones can be brought to school in order to support student's safety on the way to and from school. However, they **MUST NEVER** disrupt a lesson and should never be seen in lessons. Mobile phones can be used sensibly at break and lunchtimes, BUT NOT between lessons. HEADPHONES cannot be used in school and therefore should not be seen. This is for Health and Safety reasons. Mobile phones and headphones will be confiscated if the above is not followed and a parent/carer will need to collect them from reception, no exception.

School Uniform

Our students continue to have very smart uniform, thank you. If parents are facing genuine difficulties, please do contact your child's Leader of Year and we may be able to offer support. I would also be interested in old/outgrown useable blazers, jumpers and sports kits to be donated back to the school so we reuse them where we can.

As you may be aware Diffusion, one of our suppliers, has ceased trading. I was aware that they were having to move out of the Queensmere Shopping Centre, but they only very recently informed me they were closing altogether. This means our sole supplier is now School Days Direct. We shall try and source a second supplier, but this does take time to organise.

School Days Direct Ltd
20A Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4QA
Telephone 01628 665353
Website – www.schooldaysdirect.co.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Term and Important Dates 2022 – 2023

Spring Term	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.