

10th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Planned strike action by the National Education Union (NEU)

As you may be aware, at this stage, there has been no progress on talks between the government and the unions.

Next week sees a double planned strike day on both Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023. So far, we have followed the Department for Education's (DFE) advice by giving priority to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and then, if possible, those sitting public examinations this summer. For Wexham this has 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.

For the next two strike days we will plan to do the same, but hopefully between now and then some sort of progress can be made between the unions and the government. Thereafter, should strike action continue I feel it will be appropriate to veer away from the DFE advice to see if younger year groups can be accommodated instead due to so much time being missed.

I will write again early next week to clarify what will happen on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023 should the planned industrial action take place.

Year 9 Parents Evening and Key Stage Four Pathways

Our Year 9 Parents Evening coincides with the start of Ramadan this year. Therefore, I have moved the date of Parents Evening forward one week to the 30th March. This is also after the clocks move forward by one hour. Parents Evening will start at 3.45 and end at 6.30pm.

Our Year 9 students will also soon be choosing some of the subjects that they wish to continue into Years 10 and 11. They have been working on this in school for some time but during the week starting 20th March they will receive our 'Pathway's booklet', assemblies and much more information during their PSHE lesson. Parents can then discuss this with individual staff on parents evening and after Easter meet more specifically with senior staff should the need arise, culminating in them handing their pathways choices form in by Friday 21st April.

Last Day of Term / Start of New Term

Friday 31st March is the last day of the Spring 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](http://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
	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 30 th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm <u>Change to advertised day</u>
	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.