

20 April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As I mentioned in my letter earlier this week, I am writing to confirm that the National Education Union (NEU) has announced additional strike days on:

- **Thursday 27 April** – England
- **Tuesday 2 May** – England

As before, NEU members are under no obligation to inform me they intend to strike, so I have had to plan for all staff belonging to the NEU being on strike. For the strike days on 27 April and 2 May I will not be able to accommodate more than two year groups in school on each of the days. On previous strike days we were able to book in advance 'external' cover teachers, however these teachers are unavailable for the additional strike days. Therefore, I have had to reduce the number of year groups in school on each of the days and I have no option but to have some students working from home.

I hope the information below gives you time to make any necessary arrangements. Please be mindful that these plans are subject to change.

Partial opening contingency

- **Thursday 27 April** – School will be open for Years 10 and 11 and home learning for Years 7, 8 and 9.
- **Tuesday 2 May** – School will be open for Years 9 and 11 and home learning for Years 7, 8 and 10.

All children with an EHCP in any year group will be invited in for both of the strike days. As before, all students in school will either be taught by their normal teacher in person, if they are not striking, or, if their teacher is striking, taught by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). The lessons taught by SLT will focus predominantly on core subjects (English, Maths and Science) for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Years 10 and 11 will focus on their GCSE work.

Any year group required to stay at home will need to work online. If your child is taught by a teacher who is not striking, that teacher will be in school and will send your child an MS Teams invite to access the lesson online (guidance on how your child can access MS Teams here [teams-guide.pdf \(castleschool.co.uk\)](https://www.castleschool.co.uk/teams-guide.pdf)), or be set work online on Class Charts. Please note the invite for

these lessons may only arrive on the morning of the strike day. If your child's teacher is striking, they will not receive an invite and all work will be set online via Class Charts.

Children in receipt of Free School Meals who are not in school will receive the normal gift card emailed to parents/carers. Please contact the school if your child does not have a device to use at home and will struggle to access Class Charts or MS Teams.

My priority is to ensure your child gets the best possible education we can offer. For both the strike days all other services, such as catering, first aid, teaching assistant support and pastoral support will continue as normal.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this time. If you have any concerns, please do contact your child's Tutor or Head of House in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Lamb', written in a cursive style.

Mr Lamb
Headteacher

