

26 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Following on from my letter last week highlighting that the National Education Union (NEU) has voted for strike action, below are our contingency plans for next week.

NEU strike action dates:

- Wednesday 1 February - national strike action
- Thursday 2 March – South-east and South-west England
- Wednesday 15 March /Thursday 16 March – two-day strike of all schools in England and Wales

I am sure you will be aware the NEU stipulate to their members (teachers) that they are not to inform their employers if they intend to strike and, as such, planning for this is complex as we will not know which teachers are striking until the morning of the first day of action (Wednesday 1 February). To ensure we can open the school safely it will be necessary for some year groups to be working from home on this day.

On Wednesday 1 February, the school will be open to **Years 7, 8 and 11** and all children with an EHCP in any year group. These year groups 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) or by external cover teachers. The lessons taught by SLT/cover teachers will focus predominantly on core subjects (English, Maths and Science), for Years 7 and 8, and Year 11 will focus on revision for their upcoming mock examinations.

Years 9 and 10 will be required to stay at home on Wednesday 1 February and work online (unless they have an EHCP). If your child is taught by a teacher who is not striking, that teacher will be in school and will send your child a Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) invite to access the lesson online (you will be sent guidance on how your child can access MS Teams early next week). 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.

There will be no after-school enrichment activities on 1 February, however, the Library will be open as usual until 5.00 pm.

I am sure you can understand that we will have to implement these contingencies if strike action goes ahead. I have thought carefully about which year groups will be in school and I hope you can see we have appreciated it may be more challenging to have a Year 7 or 8 child at home all day than the older year groups. Equally, once we have navigated the first day of strike action, we will be able to plan for the subsequent strike days and will look to rotate the older years groups out of school or have more year groups in school. It is worth noting that colleagues may not strike on all four days and can choose which days they do so. Again there is no obligation for them to inform me.

As you can understand, my priority is to ensure your child gets the best possible education we can offer. All other services, for example 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

