



20 April 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: Strike Days - Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

As you may be aware the government made a recent pay offer to all unions and this has been rejected by the NEU and further strike days are planned as a result. The other major unions NASUWT, NAHT and ASCL have also balloted their members and all have rejected this offer too, as outlined below:

98% of **NEU** voted reject

87% of **ASCL** voted reject

90% of **NAHT** voted reject

87% of **NASUWT** voted reject

As a school leader my greatest concern with the offer made was that with the pay award of 4.5 %, only 0.5% was funded. Staffing is our most significant cost and to find an additional 4% from our school budget simply would not be possible. I feel compelled to share that such an offer would have a significant impact on our budget and lead to a substantial in year deficit. The only way to resolve this would be to make savings, through staffing, our curriculum offer and the support we provide through outside agencies etc. All of these would reduce the quality of provision we are able to provide your children. I firmly believe this is wrong and post pandemic it is apparent children and schools need more not less.

Some of these unions are now in the process of running further ballots to see if their members will join the NEU in further strikes and the results of these ballots will be known in the coming weeks.

The NEU, whilst resolute in their desire to secure a better offer for their members and the education sector as a whole, are mindful of the impact these additional days of action may have on students taking examinations and as such have offered to allow Union Reps and School Leaders to reach local agreements on these days to avoiding impacting on Year 11 and 13 students. This guidance is summarised here should you wish to know more:

<https://neu.org.uk/strike-disruption-exams>

As a school we will therefore be expecting that all Year 11 and 13 students are in school for both days following their normal timetable as far as possible. Some staff may still wish to strike fully and arrangements will be made within school for these lessons. We are also hoping to invite some Yr 10 students in to complete NEA work and these parents will be contacted directly.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS

Thursday 27th April - Year 12 students are invited into school for their lessons in order to support them for their mock exams the following week. When students arrive at 8.40am we will tell students which lessons are running. If lessons are cancelled, students can continue to work in school or will be able to leave the site, with consent from parents/carers. We will request consent for students to work from home through Arbor.

Tuesday 2nd May - Year 12 students who are due to sit their mock exams will be required on site. Yr 12 Music students will also be required to attend due to their practical examination too. We will request consent for students to work from home through Arbor.

We will also be inviting our vulnerable students as before and the same arrangements around food and transport will be in place. Students are expected to wear school uniform.

I know for parents of other year groups the impact has been significantly greater on your children and hope a resolution will be reached imminently.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Teece', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W Teece
Headteacher