



3rd March, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: NEU National Industrial Action on Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March 2023

As mentioned in my previous correspondence, the final two days of planned NEU National Industrial Action are on Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March 2023. There is the possibility that, if government talks with the Trade Unions are successful, these strikes may be postponed or cancelled, however, as things stand, the strikes are going ahead and so we wanted to inform you as early as possible about our plans for the days.

Our legal duty of care to all students and staff, including ensuring the health and safety of all, is paramount in our decision-making about whether full or partial closure is necessary. As mentioned previously, the level of impact on schools, due to this industrial action, differs from school to school, according to various factors such as the number of NEU members in the school and the curriculum and timetable for the planned strike day. These 2 strike days hit different days in our two-week timetable from the previous strike days, therefore, the impact on lessons is different. Furthermore, as I mentioned in my previous letters, as far as possible, we are trying to vary the year groups coming into school on each strike day, to minimise the impact of the 4 planned strike days on our students. We will not be able to keep the school open for all year groups on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March but, as with the previous strike days, we will be able to open to some students.

We have given these plans much consideration, including giving much thought to which year groups are able to come into school. As yet, Years 9, 10 and 12 have not attended school on one of the strike days. Therefore, we wanted to ensure they were able to attend school for one of the remaining strike days. As we move towards the summer examination season, we also felt that we needed to prioritise Year 11 and Year 13 and get those year groups into school on a second strike day, if possible. We are also hopeful that, given parents and carers have now had over 6 weeks' notice before the final two strike days, they will have been able to put in place childcare arrangements for younger students if needed. We know that with some students working at home on these strike days, it will have caused difficulties for some families and we are very grateful for your understanding with this. The plans for the remaining two planned strike days are below.

Wednesday 15th March 2023

- **A group of vulnerable students across Years 7-13 will be able attend school** (*Miss Largue, Director of Student Support, will be in touch with the parents/carers of these children to confirm this*).
- **Year 9 students will be able to attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 10 students will be able to attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 7-8 students and Year 11-13 students will work at home.** Students will be provided with 5 hours of high-quality subject work, including meaningful exam revision work for students in exam year groups. Teachers not participating in industrial action will upload lessons onto Teams for their timetabled classes. Students should check their Class Teams Tile for this work. If subject teachers are not in school, high-quality work will also be uploaded onto the Year Group Teams Tile (*Miss Rossi, Director of Learning, will be in touch with all Year 7-8 & Year 11-13 Parents/Carers and students in due course to outline more detail about these resources*).
- **We will also be in touch with the families of all students who receive Free School Meals (FSM) in Years 7-8 and Years 11-13.** We want to ensure that every child is still able to have a hot meal on this day. Therefore, we will provide students with a voucher to be able to purchase this meal. Any students who receive free school meals in Year 9 and 10, or in the group of vulnerable students attending school, will receive their lunch in school as normal.

Thursday 16th March 2023

- **A group of vulnerable students across Years 7-13 will be able attend school** (*Miss Largue, Director of Student Support, will be in touch with the parents/carers of these children to confirm this*).
- **Year 11 students will be able to attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 12 students will be able to attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 13 students will be able to attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.

- **Year 7-10 students will work at home.** Students will be provided with 5 hours of high-quality subject work. Teachers not participating in industrial action will upload lessons onto Teams for their timetabled classes. Students should check their Class Teams Tile for this work. If subject teachers are not in school, high-quality work will also be uploaded onto the Year Group Teams Tile (*Miss Rossi, Director of Learning, will be in touch with all Year 7-10 Parents/Carers/Students in due course to outline more detail about these resources*).
- **We will also be in touch with the families of all students who receive Free School Meals (FSM) in Years 7-10.** We want to ensure that every child is still able to have a hot meal on this day. Therefore, we will provide students with a voucher to be able to purchase this meal. Any students who receive free school meals in Years 11-13, or in the group of vulnerable students attending school, will receive their lunch in school as normal.

All other school days in the week of the two strike days are normal school days. Therefore, the school is open for all students in Years 7 to 13 as normal, on Monday 13th March, Tuesday 14th March and Friday 17th March 2023.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Very best wishes,



Miss Patterson
Headteacher