



24th April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Industrial Strike Action Information

Thank you for your patience while I have been gathering information and planning for our approach to educational provision on **Thursday 27th April 2023**.

You will be aware from recent media coverage that teachers within the NEU have voted to take industrial strike action, following a national dispute between the unions and the government. Strike action is being taken for two reasons:

- 1) Pay increases being taken directly from current school budgets rather than the pay difference coming from central government, meaning less resources for our children and schools;
- 2) Teacher pay rises not being in line with inflation and therefore being equivalent to a pay cut.

Following the announcement of strike action by the NEU, I have decided on a course of action to manage the strike days and respect the personal decision made by any member of staff around their decision to strike or not.

I have made the decision **to close** the school to students in **years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 on Thursday 27th April 2023**. Students should remain at home. We will provide remote learning and this will be a blend of live lessons (by staff who are at work and not taking industrial action). Students should log on to Teams at 8.30am where they will see which lessons will be 'live' and which lessons they should study independently. It is important that students access this educational provision. If your child's teacher is not present within 10 minutes of the start of the lesson, they should log off and study independently.

The school **WILL BE OPEN** to students in Years 11 and 13 who should come into school (Year 11 in full school uniform) for a shortened day during which the students will be primarily focussing on their coursework. All students should arrive at school by 08:45am and go to their form rooms. The day will be condensed and finish at 1:10pm. Lunch will not be provided; however there will be food available to purchase at break time and students eligible for free school meals will be able to collect a 'grab bag' from the Diner.

All **BTEC Art** students will spend the day in Art 2 preparing for their forthcoming exams on 2nd and 3rd May 2023. Students studying **French** will spend periods 1 and 2 preparing for their speaking exam and should come in equipped with their speaking booklets.

If a Year 11 class teacher is in school, students will be expected to attend that lesson as normal. All other students will be allocated a supervised study session.



Similarly, Year 13 students should arrive for their timetabled lessons. However, if their teacher is absent, students should undertake independent study in the Sixth Form.

If your child's class teacher belongs to the NEU and chooses to strike on the above day:

- Your child's class will **not** be covered by other staff
- Remote learning will **not** be provided for those children that day
- There will **not** be any provision available for children of critical workers within the classes where strike action is being taken

If your child's teacher is not striking on the above day:

- Your child will have virtual lessons via Teams

Other Provision

We will operate an on-site provision for a small number of students we feel will require support and supervision on the day. Parents and carers of EHCP students will be contacted by Ms King to invite them into school for supported study.

I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Please may I ask that you do not approach teachers individually about their intentions or decision. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation as it continues. As soon as we have more information, we will let you know.

I want to thank you for your continued support of our teachers, wider staff and school.

Yours faithfully

Ms K Woodcock
Headteacher