



Dear Parent/Carer,

### **NEU Strike Action, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

As I indicated to you earlier this month, there is a second day of strike action being undertaken by members of the NEU on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This action is not against the school itself but is part of national industrial action organised by these trades unions about pay, workload and school funding.

Under trade union law, staff are not required to tell me of their intention to strike and furthermore, I am not allowed to direct non-striking staff to cover for striking colleagues. Based on the information that I have received and having undertaken an appropriate risk assessment, it is clear that it will not be possible to operate as normal on that day. This decision is based on safety grounds, as there will not be enough staff to supervise the students. Guidance from the Department for Education also asks schools to prioritise students in Year groups undertaking public examinations this academic year. Consequently, the following arrangements will be in place:

#### **Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 students should stay at home on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

Students in Year 7 – 10 will be provided with work via the Satchel One Show my Homework platform. They are all used to having homework set on this platform. Teachers who are not striking will set work for students in line with the topic areas they are currently working on. Students will be able to use the message function in Show my Homework to ask any questions or get clarification from teachers who are not striking during that lesson time.

Teachers who are taking industrial action will not set work on Show my Homework. However, work for these classes will be set centrally and will appear on SMHW. This may be more general work but will reflect the current topics they are studying.

#### **Year 11 students should attend school as normal on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

Year 11 students have already been informed that we will use the first part of the day to complete their Maths paper 1 mock exam. (They will do their Maths Paper 2 and 3 and their English mock exam on the forthcoming strike days on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March - if they go ahead) **It is essential that all students attend; this is their final opportunity to rehearse for the summer exams and these two core subjects are so important for their futures.**

For the remainder of the day, Year 11 students will follow their normal timetabled lessons for the day. Many of these lessons will be with their normal class teachers who will continue with appropriate work. A proportion of lessons will need to be supervised by other members of the school staff. Appropriate work / learning activities will be set in lessons where students do not have their normal teacher. These activities will concentrate on consolidating learning and undertaking revision type activities. Year 11 students will be spoken to in assembly on Friday and told the following:

- They should arrive at school at the normal time and in full uniform
- They will need their exam equipment for Maths – **Paper 1 is a calculator paper**
- They should come prepared for their normal lessons on Wednesday with all relevant equipment
- They need to ensure they have work booklets, homework books (Science) and revision resources for their subjects. Some staff may have already instructed them on what work they need to do prior to Wednesday
- If necessary, we will put students in a computer room to give them wider access to learning resources e.g. BBC bitesize, Hegarty maths etc

#### **Year 12 and 13 students should attend school as normal on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

Year 12 and 13 students will follow their normal timetabled lessons for the day. Many of these lessons will be with their normal class teachers who will continue with appropriate work. Where they do not have their normal class teacher, they should complete independent study in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre, or the work that the member of staff has told them they should complete. Therefore, students should ensure they have resources with them to be able to do this



The arrangements outlined above are for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March only. You may already know that further strike action is planned for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Should these go ahead, I will write to you prior to each one outlining the plans for that specific strike day. We would hope to be able to bring in a different year group on each of these days.

If your child is in Years 7-10, and is normally in receipt of a free school meal, you can order a packed lunch for collection by completing this [form](#). The meal will then be ready to collect after 11.00am on the day. Forms need to be completed by 10 p.m. on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

I understand that this will be a great inconvenience to many of you, but is unavoidable. We must continue to hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Park  
Head of School

