

25th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

As you are aware, the National Education Union have announced their intention to undertake strike action after a 53% turnout in the recent ballot (90% of whom voted in favour of strike action). The 4 days targeted that affect us are:

- Wednesday, February 1st
- Wednesday, March 1st
- Wednesday, March 15th
- Thursday, March 16th

This is a national dispute because of what the NEU ballot defined as a *“Failure to provide a fully funded above-inflation pay rise (as measured by Sept 2022 RPI). A fully funded pay rise is one that is funded by additional resources sufficient to provide the above-inflation pay rise”*.

This is not a dispute with the school as an employer. As a school, we are expected to take all reasonable steps to keep stay open for as many students as possible. However, the majority of our teaching staff are members of the NEU so our ability to function as a school will be severely compromised. Trade unions are obliged to inform employers as to the number of members being induced to take industrial action, but they are not obliged to provide names, which makes advanced planning challenging. However, currently 35 members of staff have indicated they will strike next Wednesday.

As such, we will only be open to the following students on Wednesday 1st February:

- Year 7
- Year 13
- Bridge and LEAP students
- Students with an EHCP (who will be supervised/supported whilst completing online lessons).
- The Art trip to The Tate Gallery involving some Year 11, 12 and 13 students will also go ahead as planned

Other students are expected to log onto Teams at home for a live lesson according to their regular timetable. In the event that a teacher is on strike there will be no lesson that period, but they should log on for the next lesson.

There are likely to be difficult periods ahead throughout this industrial dispute as individuals may well have different points of view. However, taking industrial action remains a personal decision for individuals and we will endeavour to do our best for our young people throughout. I will write again with an update ahead of the next proposed industrial action on Wednesday 1st March. We are likely to make different decisions for each strike day to minimise the overall disruption to each year group. Thank you for your support and understanding in the meantime.

Yours faithfully




Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher

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