

**“it is not enough for children to be loved,
they must know that they are loved”**

Friday, 27 January 2023

Dear Parents

As I am sure that you will have seen and heard reported in the news media, the National Education Union (NEU) which represents teachers has called a series of one-day strikes, the first of which is due to take place next Wednesday, 1st February. Along with most schools in the country we will be affected by this industrial action. These strikes are the result of a dispute between the NEU and the government over teachers’ pay and conditions and are not a dispute between the school and its teaching staff.

As Headteacher of this school I am proud of our teaching staff and grateful to them for the skill, professionalism, and dedication that they show every day. For many of them the decision to take strike action has been a difficult one but they feel that they have had little choice but to do so, in order to safeguard both their own living standards and the future of the profession. It is my hope that a fair and speedy resolution to this dispute can be reached so that teachers can go back to focusing on what they do best – caring for, and teaching children.

As a school we are fully committed to the education and welfare of the students, and we will remain open on Wednesday 1 February. However, with a significant number of teaching staff unavailable for work I have had to make contingency plans to ensure that those children who do come on site can be accommodated safely. We have prioritised students taking public examinations this summer and some of our more vulnerable young people. As a result, the following will apply next Wednesday:

- School will be open for students in year 11 and year 13 and they will be expected to attend school, as normal, at the usual time in the morning. They will have a programme of interventions provided for them and they will be dismissed from school at 1.00pm. Lunch will be provided as normal for the children on site.
- Students in year 12 with planned work experience on Wednesdays should come in to school at 10.45am, in business dress, and travel to the workplace as normal.
- Students in years 7-10 and students not on work experience in year 12, will be expected to remain at home. They will be expected to spend the day revising for their PPE examinations in February. The PPE timetable and revision materials will be posted on Microsoft Teams.
- A small group of selected students in other year groups, including some of our more vulnerable young people, will also be invited to attend on site. Parents will be contacted directly by relevant staff about this.
- Students in years 7-10, and year 12 who receive Free School Meals (FSM) will receive food vouchers via the Wonde system.

I appreciate that having to close the school to a large proportion of our students is not ideal for parents and families, but I hope that you understand the reasons for this.

There are further strikes planned for Thursday 2nd, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. I will write to you nearer the time to inform you of any changes to our normal arrangements for these days.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.



Mr P. Dunne
Headteacher

