

27 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Planned Strike Action on Wednesday 1 February Confirmation of Arrangements

Further to our previous correspondence, we write to update you on the progress of our contingency planning for the forthcoming strike action in schools.

We have had confirmation from the NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike on the above date. The strike is not against the school but against the Secretary of State. The key complaint or grievance relates to union request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation as well the cost of living.

#### What Will Happen at the School During the Strike?

- School will be **closed** for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- **All** Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students **must** attend as normal; usual attendance rules and procedures apply.
- We will also be open for:
  - A group of 'vulnerable' students, who have received separate communication.
  - Students entered for the Intermediate Maths Challenge, who will be expected to attend as per separate arrangements.
- If any parent/carer is a critical worker and is concerned about the care of their son/ward on the above day, then please get in touch **as soon as possible**.
- Any students who are not on site will be expected to use the remote education that will be sent next week.
- Free school meals (FSM) - if your son/daughter/ward normally receives FSM, they can still collect theirs between 11.00am and 12 noon on the day of the strike.
  - To do so, students must attend in full school uniform and access the school site through the pedestrian gate nearest the dining rooms.
  - Crucially, the FSM must be pre-ordered using [this survey](#).
  - If you have multiple children in school on FSM, **you need to complete a form for each child**.
  - The deadline for ordering the FSM is Monday 30 January at 1.00pm.

#### Picket Lines

Be aware that some teaching staff might form a 'picket line' outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person; some staff may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents/carers that we support our staff's legal right to strike.

Given this, students are encouraged that any interactions which they might have with staff are as courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day. We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line.

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Finally, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to our staff. As such, we will continue to review our contingency plans if the planned industrial action continues.

We hope that you understand how we have not taken these decisions lightly. For example, before reaching these decisions we have had to take into consideration the need to secure the health and safety of both your child as well as any non-striking staff, in a school where we anticipate a heavily reduced workforce to be on-site.

We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans, we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours faithfully,



**Simon Fisher**  
Co-Headteacher



**Jo Higginbottom**  
Co-Headteacher

