

Friday 27 February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to provide an update on our plans in response to the planned strike action by the NEU on Wednesday 1 February.

As mentioned in my previous letter, we are prioritising children of critical workers and vulnerable children as well as our year 11s as they are in a critical examination year. This is in line with government advice.

Having completed a risk assessment and having some knowledge of staffing levels in school, we are able to offer lessons in school limited to certain year groups.

The plan for each year group is as follows:

Year 7: Year 7 are expected to attend school for periods 4, 5 and 6. They will also have lunch as normal in school. We ask that students arrive at 11.45am and students will be dismissed at 2.55pm

Year 8: Year 8 are expected to attend school for periods 2, 3 and 4. They will also have lunch straight after period 4. We ask that students arrive at 9.45am and students will be dismissed after their lunch at 1.20pm

Year 9: School will be closed for Year 9. Work for English, Maths and Science will be provided on Teams and needs to be completed at home during the day.

Year 10: School will be closed for Year 10. Live lessons will be provided for periods 1 and 2 for the majority of classes via Teams. Students will receive an invitation to join the lesson via their school timetable which is on their Teams calendar. After Period 2, work for English, Maths and Science will be provided on Teams and needs to be completed at home during the remainder of the day.

Year 11: All year 11 students are expected to be in school for all lessons. The day will be slightly reduced and we ask that students arrive at 8.55am and students will be dismissed at 2.55pm.

In accordance with government guidance, we are offering additional supervised places in school to vulnerable students in years 7 – 10; these families will be contacted directly.

We are also offering some places in school all day for children of critical workers in years 7 - 10, who work on frontline services and have no other option for childcare. I ask that you only apply for a place if you have no other option so that I can ensure the safety of our students with a limited number of staff in school. Places will be prioritised for families where all adults in the household are frontline health, education or emergency service workers who are unable to work from home.

To apply for a place, please follow the link below to complete the online form. Please complete this by **4:00pm Monday 30 January**. You will be contacted directly to confirm the place.

<https://forms.office.com/e/mXPwVVdc2C>

For vulnerable students and students of critical workers in Years 7 - 10, the offered places will be from 8.55am to 2.55pm. Students will be supervised and expected to complete the work as per their year groups above.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 11 are expected in school during the times stated above. Outside of these times, their attendance will not be affected. Students in Years 9 and 10 are not expected in school and their attendance will not be affected negatively.

As per government advice, we have tried to keep the school open for as many students as possible whilst ensuring all students are safe and adequately supervised. We cannot insist that teachers who are on strike set work and so have tried to provide as much education as we can.

If your child does not have access to the internet at home, then please do let us know.

As I have previously communicated, the NEU have a further three days planned for strike action if an agreement is not made with the government. We will evaluate each of these days closer to the time and communicate our plans accordingly. Each time, we will look to minimise disruption as much as possible.

This is a national dispute between a teaching union and the government and we hope that the dispute can be resolved to keep any disruption to a minimum. As stated previously, we appreciate your understanding as we navigate through this changeable set of circumstances. We are really grateful to our staff for working together to help continue to support our students as much as possible. As always, we ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect during this time.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Brown
Headteacher