

20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

**Re: Strike Action Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

As I am sure you are now well aware, there remains dispute between the government and the teaching unions over teachers' pay, conditions and school funding. As part of this dispute, the National Education Union (NEU) will be holding a further 2 days of strike action on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

I am pleased that, unlike the previous strike days, the NEU has acknowledged the proximity of these strike days to the GCSE exams of students and given special dispensation for schools to hold revision activities and exam practice for Year 11 students.

Therefore, I am writing to inform you that the school will be closed on that day to all students except:

- Year 11 students (8.30am – 1.10pm)
- Vulnerable students (who will be contacted directly and invited into school)

**Year 11 students**

Year 11 students should come into school as normal, in uniform, on both days (for 8.30am registration). They will then have revision activities and mock exam practice lessons 1-4. Students will then be dismissed at 1.10pm. There will be a breaktime service as usual for students but no lunch provision.

**What work should students in Years 7-10 do on these days?**

Other restrictions prevent me from asking staff to plan online work when striking or for those who are striking. Like most schools, we are addressing this by encouraging students to pick up the topics they are currently studying through Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/> and of course the other online provisions that our students routinely use such as Mathswatch, Seneca Learning, GCSE Pod and TEAMS.

**What about students on Free school Meals?**

As a school we will provide vouchers for those on Free School Meals.

**What about the other strike dates?**

The government has made an offer to the unions which I understand has been rejected by all 4 teaching unions. This raises the strong possibility that the three other teacher unions (ASCL, NASUWT and NAHT) may also ballot or re-ballot their members regarding industrial action. I understand that any such action would not be until the next academic year.

I appreciate and apologise that this will cause disruption for many of our families but urge all parents to ensure their child attends all other days, in particular Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, which some may be tempted to 'take off'. Everyone in the school, and wider education community, is saddened that the education of young people will be disrupted and we live in hope that some sort of resolution may be found to the dispute that prevents these strikes taking place. I will, of course, update you on our arrangements for any further strike action if it occurs.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard (Headteacher)

*You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.*