



27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

## Strike Action

As we have already communicated, there will be national industrial action by the NEU on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. This is the first of four planned strikes over the next two months.

The action taken is against the government and not the school. We could potentially have over 50% of our staff out on strike. Staff are not compelled to inform schools if they are going to strike or not. Therefore, I, in consultation with the trustees, have taken the decision to **close the school for all year groups**. We will be open for students with an EHCP and vulnerable students, as identified by the school, if they wish to attend on this day to complete the work that will be set.

I understand that this decision will be supported by some, and not others, as would be the case with any decision we made. We have to balance the health and safety of the students and the legal rights of those who are striking.

Those who are striking would argue that the purpose of the strike is threefold:

1. Teaching is a graduate profession, requiring colleagues to spend three or four years at university and another two years of induction training once in a school. The pay of teachers simply has not kept up with other graduate professionals in the private sector, declining on average, in real terms, by 11% between 2010 and 2022 ([Institute of Fiscal Studies](#)) and this is making it impossible for schools to recruit and retain the best possible people to be the teachers of your children. The DfE has missed its own teacher recruitment targets nine out of the last ten years ([Schools Week](#)).
2. Schools are being asked to do more, with less. Many government voices have stated that schools are being given more money, but they have failed to mention that schools also have many more pupils and inflation is making schools much more expensive to run. In real terms schools have the same money that they had in 2010 and children's education is suffering from poor buildings, old equipment, long waiting lists for services like counselling, a lack of specialist support for children with Special Educational Needs, and the gap between the outcomes for those who come from well-off families and those who do not, has got wider.
3. Teachers and support staff work incredibly hard for your children, often including long hours ([BBC](#)) in the evenings and at weekends, because they genuinely care about young people; they are worried that the education system is being undermined, under resourced and under appreciated by the government, and that this will have a detrimental impact on your children's future.

Staff who are **not on strike** will be setting work on Google Classroom and/or delivering remote lessons online from in school. Students should attend all online lessons using the lesson code as on their timetable. If there is no work or teacher present, then they should complete the following:

- Year 7-9: Super curriculum tasks/homework/reading
- Year 10-13: Revision/reviewing prior learning/homework/coursework/reading articles related to their subject

Students will not be required to attend form time. Lessons will start as normal at 9.05am.

Students who are in receipt of Free School Meals will receive further information regarding this on Monday.

We will go through these plans with students next week in registration so they are clear and to give students the opportunity to ask any questions.

We will review what the impact would have been if we had tried to keep the school open before deciding how to approach the next strike day on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

We are sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child(ren) at short notice or that they will experience disruption to their education. We understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

Kind regards

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher