



21st April 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Notice of arrangements for students on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May due to industrial action

Quick read

- The next planned days for industrial action are **Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May**.
- In a change to previous strike days, our **Year 11 and 13 students will be in school** and working on exam preparation and revision.
- Students in **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will not be in school** and will not be set additional work for these days but they should use this time to complete outstanding assignments, homework and independent work including Tassomai and Sparx Maths.

Longer read

Unfortunately, there has still not been any resolution to the dispute between the National Education Union (NEU) and the government. The NEU are therefore planning to go ahead with another two days of strike action on **Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May**. Changes in the guidance to members of the NEU, designed to minimise disruption to Year 11 and 13 students, enable us to provide a different offer on the upcoming strike days.

As a consequence, I can confirm that the school will move to a partial closure on the above dates with arrangements for students as follows:

- Students in **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** should **NOT** attend school on those days.
- Students in **Years 11 and 13** should **attend school as normal** (school buses will be running as normal).

In addition to the above, a small number of students from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 who have been identified as having a vulnerability or an additional need, will be eligible to attend school as per the previous strike days. They will follow a series of curriculum-related interventions but they will not be able to have their normal timetable.

Students in Years 11 and 13 will follow typical timetabled days, accessing the normal curriculum, with, as far as possible, their usual teaching staff. Where their teacher is unavailable, they will attend additional exam preparation lessons supervised by senior members of staff. It should be noted that some of the students in Year 11 will be involved in examination activities such as the Photography Exam and Modern Foreign Language speaking assessments and so it is very important that all students in Year 11 and 13 attend school on these days.





Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will not be set additional work for those days but they should use this unexpected time to complete outstanding assignments and independent work, catch up on any work missed, and go back over any topics in subjects that they are less sure of (including, for example, the use of Sparx Maths – an online resource). Students and parents will receive further communication next week with some suggested activities that students can complete independently on each day.

My rationale for prioritising students in Years 11 and 13 is to focus on the students in the exam year groups, many of whom will soon be facing external exams for the first time, and to ensure they have access to school resources which support their preparation for those exams. I very much appreciate the frustration for parents of students in the other year groups but I hope you understand the reasoning for this approach.

We remain committed to keeping this dispute national, not local, making sure that differences of opinion do not negatively impact on the excellent learning environment and atmosphere that we have. I appreciate your ongoing support in trying to achieve that outcome in the best interests of the young people themselves. I will keep you updated on any future developments in the industrial dispute. In the meantime, all best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Fenwick
Headteacher