



9 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

You may be aware from media coverage that one of the teaching unions, the NEU, is continuing strike action, which will take place on 15 and 16 March 2023. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the teaching unions and the government regarding teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. The summary matter in dispute is 'Failure to provide a fully funded above-inflation pay rise (as measured by the September 2022 RPI). A fully funded pay rise is one that is funded by the additional resources sufficient to provide the above-inflation pay rise.'

I am getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for **Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023:**

- School will be open to our designated vulnerable students across all year groups. School will contact the families individually to invite the appropriate students.
- School will be open for some students whose Parents/Carers are Critical Workers; regrettably, capacity is limited. Priority will be students taking Public Exams this year, followed by younger students less able to remain at home unsupervised. A Google Form accompanies this letter for Parents/Carers to declare their field of work and request a place at school on the strike day.
- School will be open for all students in Years 12 and 13.
- Students taking part in the UK Maths Challenge competition will be contacted with the arrangements as this will be going ahead on 16 March.
- The Year 10 Geography Epping Forest Field Trip is going ahead on 16 March and students will receive detailed arrangements from their Geography teachers.
- All other students in all year groups will be required to stay home and engage in remote learning via Google Classroom where their teachers are not striking. In this case, they may have live lessons from non-striking teachers. A register will be taken at the start of every lesson. Teachers at school will notify their classes by 9am that they are on site and will be delivering a live lesson according to the student's usual timetable.
- Some students will have fewer live lessons than others. We will not know until the start of school, on the mornings of 15 and 16 March, which teachers or exactly how many will be in school or whether there will need to be last minute changes to certain arrangements. It is prudent therefore to have no planned Assembly or Tutor time to give the school that 20 minute period to assess the situation and to support teachers on site to communicate with their classes ahead of the first lesson at 9.00am.
- Students who attend school for the day will be able to sit in their timetabled classroom to access a live lesson if their teacher is on site. During lesson time where their teacher is not on site, students at school may have access to a computer, depending on numbers who take up the Critical Worker offer, for students to be supervised in school.
- School suggested activities for all students at home or at school when not engaged with live lessons:

Oak Academy - a national online academy providing remote learning resources by key stage (for everyone) - students have been emailed the link
Super curriculum on Google Classrooms (for everyone)
Massolit (sixth form only)
Seneca (A Level and GCSE students only)
Unifrog (Year 11 only)
BBC Bitesize (Years 7 - 11 only)
MathsWatch (Years 7 - 11 only)
Kerboodle (MFL and science only)
Completion of any outstanding work
Revision
Reading poetry, fiction and non-fiction
Mindfulness practice - Dotbe password Fofboc - here students will find home practice animations for the .b mindfulness course

- The canteen will provide a reduced hot and cold meal service for students on site at lunchtime.
- Students at home (years 7-10) who usually receive Free School Meals will receive a Voucher for the day.
- There will be no after school activities on site except for Homework Club in the library, ending at 4.15pm as usual, only for those students who have been at school for the whole day.

I am sorry that you may have to make alternative arrangements for your child at this notice and that you will be concerned about the possible impacts on your child's education. I appreciate that you may have personal views about this situation and the impact will be different across our families but I would ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. The School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

The Board of Trustees is engaged on this issue and their priority is to minimise the impact of strike action on your children's education in so far as commensurate with the provision of a safe and secure environment.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

Information regarding bespoke arrangements for subsequent Strike Action Days will be shared nearer the time for each day.

I do recognize that this is a difficult time for everyone. Should you have any questions, please contact the School Office who will redirect your enquiry as appropriate.

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker
Headteacher