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Head of School

Andrea Jones

Executive Principal

Melanie Wicks

10th March 2023

Dear Families,

Further to my recent communication with you regarding the last day of teacher strike action at the end of February, I am writing to you to share information about the next planned teacher strike days on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023**. As you may know from the national media, the National Education Union (NEU) has announced strike action in the North West and England on the following dates: 1st February; 28th February; and 15th and 16th March 2023. This strike action will affect the day to day running of the school, however, it is worth noting that this is not action against the school but is part of national industrial action organised by the trade unions about concerns over teachers' pay and working conditions and the funding levels for schools on a national scale.

I am therefore sharing the school's plans, so far, for operating safely and sensibly on these next two days of strike action – **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023**. The only basis for closing a school or a class is if they cannot be safely operated. Not all teachers are members of the NEU, they may be a member of another union which has not taken the decision to strike at this time, so some classes may be able to remain open in some schools. This is why there may be differences in arrangements from school to school.

From the information we have been given to date, we believe that a large number of our staff may be involved, which will not allow school to operate effectively. For this reason, we have unfortunately had to take the decision to **close the school to the majority of students in Years 7-10 on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023**.

All Year 11 students are expected to attend school as usual, as we have prioritised ensuring they are able to access their learning in school given the close proximity to their final exam period. Non-attendance to school on these days for Year 11 will be recorded and followed up in the usual way. Year 11 should line up in their usual place at 8.30am on both days. During these days they will also be sitting some additional mock exams to support with final exam preparations and with targeted intervention planning. Students have been provided with information regarding these separately.

Please be assured that the school has undertaken a full risk assessment based on the information we have, including contingency planning, and this has been approved by our Board of Trustees. If there is any change to these plans nearer the time we will of course be in contact to inform you.

In line with the Department for Education guidance, if your child was expected to attend school on the previous strike day earlier this month, this will remain the case, and they should attend at the usual time and go straight to the canopy area of school where they will be registered and directed to their classrooms from there.

If your child is currently eligible for Free School Meals and is not in school on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March, we will be providing lunches in the form of 'grab bags' and these will be available for collection from the main school office from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

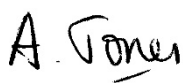
Every student will be expected to engage with their learning during this day, including where they have been asked to remain at home. Due to the number of staff not expected to be in school on this day, and due to the provision in place for Year 11 students, the vast majority of learning for all other students will be shared through Class Charts. We recently sent out a survey regarding access to devices, and if you indicated that your child does not have access to a suitable device for learning at home, we are in the process of arranging for laptops to be loaned to these students so they are able to access their learning. If you have any further issues regarding access to the Internet or a suitable device, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance so we can put plans in place to support.

All students will be expected to log on for an assembly at 8.30am when initial registers will be taken, and attendance will be monitored and followed up in the usual way. The link for this assembly will be available on the morning on Class Charts. During this assembly, students will also be provided with further details regarding how they should access their learning during this day.

We understand that this can cause additional childcare arrangements for families and for this reason the decision to close the school to the majority of students has not been taken lightly, and we are working to ensure that we are able to continue to provide our students with their educational provision. We will of course keep you updated if there are any changes to these arrangements.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Jones'.

Mrs Andrea Jones
Headteacher