

21 April 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

NEU Strike Action – Thursday, 27 April & Tuesday, 2 May

You will no doubt be aware that the next planned dates for National Education Union (NEU) members to strike will be next week on Thursday, 27 April and Tuesday, 2 May.

What is the dispute about which has led to this strike action?

As a reminder, the NEU is in a formal trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education because she has failed to give the undertaking sought by the NEU to make available additional and sufficient funds to allow employers to pay a fully funded increase in teachers' pay at a rate greater than inflation (as measured by September 2022 RPI).

The NEU therefore conducted a ballot of its members who are teachers in England, with the majority of those voting in the ballot, voting in favour of strike action.

What will happen at Priory as a result of this strike action?

- As you are now aware, with over 60% of our staff members in the NEU, and the number who have already indicated that they will be striking, **school will be closed to all pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on Thursday, 27 April.**
- **Tuesday, 2 May is an INSET and therefore school will be closed to all pupils on this date.**
- Furthermore, as staff do not need to inform us of their intention to strike, there may be even more colleagues who strike, hence the reason, on the grounds of health & safety and safeguarding, we are unable to accommodate all year groups.
- In addition, some staff not involved in industrial action may not be available for work due to the strikes impacting on their own families.
- **As previous, pupils in Year 11 will be expected to attend school as normal on Thursday, 27 April. All Year 11 pupils will complete a series or revision masterclasses in most of their subjects.**
- School buses will run as normal.
- Catering will run a reduced service in the restaurant for all pupils and staff in school. Pupils are encouraged to pre-order their food online however there will be a small provision of items available to buy at the till. (Those not in school should ensure they do not place a routine order as this may still be charged.)



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- Further information will be sent out in due course regarding the expectations of pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 and the work they will be able to access throughout the day on Thursday, 27 April.
- Our pastoral team in school will contact families of vulnerable pupils directly to ascertain if they require a place in school on the strike day.

Finally

These are National Days of Strike action where all schools must decide whether they can remain open, either fully or partially, or if the school will need to close temporarily. This decision of course, still depends on each individual school's particular context, based primarily on staff numbers, and as such, all schools are likely to continue to have different approaches.

However, by writing to you now and outlining what our approach to the strike day here at Priory will be, we hope we have given parents and carers as much notice as possible again for you to be able to make any necessary plans.

If you have any queries in relation to the content of this letter or if there are any other associated issues on which you require clarification, please raise these with myself in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Eastham
Principal