



**Rayner Stephens**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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**Head of School**  
Mr M. Davies  
**Executive Principal**  
Melanie Wicks

**January 2023**

Dear parents and carers

As you may have heard or seen on the news this week, in its ongoing campaign for a fully-funded, above inflation pay rise, teacher members of the National Education Union in England and Wales have voted overwhelmingly for strike action.

The union is declaring seven days of strike action in February and March, though any individual school will only be affected by four of them. The first will be on Wednesday 1 February, affecting 23,400 schools in England and Wales.

Dr Mary Bousted and Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretaries of the National Education Union, have stated:

*"This is not about a pay rise but correcting historic real-terms pay cuts. Teachers have lost 23% in real-terms since 2010, and support staff 27% over the same period. The average 5% pay rise for teachers this year is some 7% behind inflation. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, that is an unsustainable situation."*

All schools across England and Wales will be affected by the strike action and it is unlikely that any school, including Rayner Stephens will be fully open to all students on the strike days. We will be working with all staff still available on these days to have as many students and year groups in school as possible and we will be providing care for any students deemed as vulnerable, children of key workers and any other students who would require childcare on these days.

We are working closely with the National Education Union and all the staff at Rayner Stephens to ensure we are able to provide the best possible provision of education and care during the strike action, whilst also recognising and respecting the votes of the union members nationally. I will write to all parents and carers early next week with exact details around the arrangements for Wednesday 1 February.

In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the pending strike action, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

Mr M. Davies  
Head of School

