

**Date: 10th March 2023**

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Planned strike action at Kingsway school on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

We write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

### **Background**

We have had confirmation from NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on **15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

### **What is the dispute about which has led to the strike?**

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

### **What will happen at the school during the strike?**

The school will be partially open. Those students where arrangements have been made for them to be in school are expected to attend.

Students in the Resource School and our most vulnerable learners will be contacted about arrangements in school.

Year 11 students will attend on both Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March students are to arrive to school as normal and go to the canteen on Broadway. On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, students in forms THEK1 are to arrive at Broadway at 9am and go straight to the canteen. Students in these forms will stay in school until after break 1 and will leave school at 11:30am. Students in forms NGSAY should arrive at Broadway at 11am and go to the canteen. Students in these forms will leave school at 1:30pm. Students should bring with them revision materials which they can use in lesson times. Break 1 will operate as normal, there will be no break 2. Students will be able to access the canteen on Broadway break 1.

We will move our lessons to remote learning for Years 7-10.

The arrangements for remote learning on Tuesday will be:

- Students will follow their normal timetabled lessons.
- Lessons will be from the subject's playlist in their Google classroom.
- Students can also use the following resources to supplement their learning:
  - Oak academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>
  - BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Those families who receive free school meals, and would like to collect this on the day, will be able to do so at 12.30pm from Student Services. Please reserve your school meal by contacting [office@kingsway.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:office@kingsway.stockport.sch.uk) by the end of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents that as a Trust we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is potentially unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that any closure / partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Kingsway school. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely

R Knott  
**Acting Headteacher**