

10 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, one of the teaching unions, the National Education Union (NEU), is continuing with their planned strike for the Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March.

As on the previous strike days, we want to keep as much of the school open as possible, but as I'm sure you understand this is also impacted by the strike action of staff in other schools. Our staff who as parents like you are having to manage the impact of this national action on their own childcare responsibilities. I have therefore made the decision to partially close the school.

School will remain open to all Year 11 students, who are preparing for their GCSE examinations, and those who are deemed to be vulnerable or the children of key workers.

Deciding how to allocate our reduced resources has not been easy. **However, we have concluded that the Year 11 students must be given priority as they have 30 days before the start of critical summer GCSE exams. All Year 11 students will be expected to attend as normal and we have planned a comprehensive revision programme over the two closure days.**

You will receive a separate text communication today that will outline how you can book your child a place at school if they are in years 7-10 and also meet the criteria for vulnerable and/or key worker children; we have to have a booking system so that we know who should be in school. Furthermore, we will also provide a take home food bag on Tuesday 14th March for students who are entitled to Free School Meals.

As we stressed last time, we value your support in getting us through this challenging time and we must do all we can to continue to support attendance at school, even on these disjointed days. I urge your support to work with us and ensure that your child returns to school on **Friday 17th March**. We need to work together to minimise the disruption and the considerable impact on outcomes due to lost learning hours.

We wanted to communicate as soon as possible so you can plan accordingly. Further, may I also remind you that we have an Inset day scheduled for **Friday 24th March**, the school will be closed for Y7 – 10 students. **Once again, due to the proximity of the GCSE exams the school will remain open on this day for Year 11 students.**

Finally, our drive on raise standards continues and I am delighted to report that parents, carers and students have responded extremely positively to our higher expectations. Thank you for working with us to continue the high standards that we are now proud to associate with our school

Kind Regards

Peter Mee
Head of School