

Thursday 23rd February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU have declared that further strike action will take place on Tuesday 28th February 2023. The strike is happening due to a national dispute between the union and the government over teachers' pay and not because of any school-based issues.

Further strikes have been calendared for Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of March.

As was the case on 1st February, it isn't possible for us to open safely and effectively to the vast majority of our students. I have had to prioritise those students taking statutory examinations this year in order to minimise the impact on their learning; therefore, the Academy will open to students in **Years 11, 12 and 13 only** on Tuesday 28th February and will close to students in Years 7-10.

I am sorry about the disruption to your child's education. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but is necessary in order that we can provide a safe and secure environment for students whilst continuing to deliver a high quality of education.

Students in Year 11, 12 and 13

On Tuesday 28th February, all students in Years 11, 12 and 13 must attend school as normal, in full school uniform. If your child is ill, you should contact the attendance team as normal.

Students in Years 7-10

Students in Years 7-10 should remain at home on Tuesday 28th February. Students should complete the work set on their Google Classroom accounts or provided by their teachers. In addition, students can access lessons provided by The Oak Academy through the following link: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, a grab bag will be available for your child to collect at 1pm on Tuesday 28th February. Collection will be from the student gate on Crewe Road. If you would like your child to collect a grab bag you **MUST** complete the following form (You will need to complete a form for every child.) by 8pm Friday evening.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2MZXVM/>

Ambition • Bravery • Respect

Picket Lines

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, parents and carers 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 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 students to refrain from joining any picket line.

This dispute is between Teaching Unions and the Government, not individual schools, but I appreciate that it may well cause some issues for your families.

Thank you for your understanding.



L Proctor
Principal