

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU have declared that strike action will take place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of March.

Last week, the Department for Education published guidance for all schools on handling strike action. As part of the guidance, they have asked all headteachers to complete a risk assessment so that they are able to assess whether the health, safety and satisfactory education of students can be guaranteed in the absence of the teachers taking strike action.

Our primary concern is opening the Academy safely and ensuring that the students who attend experience a good quality of education. Unfortunately, due to the number of staff who are members of the NEU, 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 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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. **Mock exams will take place as per the calendar for students in Year 11.**

**Students in Years 7-10**

Students in Years 7-10 should remain at home on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Students should complete the work set on their Google Classroom accounts or provided by their teachers.

**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 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Monday evening.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/QY26KS/>

**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

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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