8 March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well.

As you may be aware, the membership of the National Education Union (NEU) has voted to take industrial action in schools across the country. This will take the form of strike action and is currently due to take place on Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 March 2023. I am writing to give you as much notice as possible about the likely impact this will have on our school.

As with the previous strike days a significant proportion of the teaching staff are members of the NEU, so once again there will not be enough staff on site to ensure the safety of all 1232 students. As a result, the decision has been made to close the school for the majority of students apart from a small group of invited students. The parents /carers of this invited group will receive a personal communication in the next few days.

So, on both Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March we will be moving to remote learning for those days only. To ensure the continuation and provision of work over these two days the following arrangements will be put into place.

Year 7 to 11 classes where the member of staff is not striking.

Students will be able to access pre-recorded MS streams of their normal lessons. These are videos of their lessons that only they can access via their school login details. These videos will be set on Class Charts along with work to complete and will provide enough rigour and challenge to last the hour session.

Year 7-11 classes where the member of staff is on strike.

A menu of suitable learning experiences will be offered to all students using the Oak Academy resources online. These will be sent to all students via Class Charts. Year 10 and 11 students can also use this time to complete some revision for their upcoming examinations.

All online activities on the strike day will start at 9.15am to allow the school time to assess which members of staff are available. It is highly likely that staff who are not striking will put their work on Class Charts throughout the day as per their normal lesson time. Therefore, students should continue to check Class Charts at the start of each lesson period. Students should ensure they know both their school login and Class Charts login before they leave school on Tuesday 14 March.

For students who are entitled to free school meals and are working at home we will be emailing vouchers home to parents the day before. For those students in school, lunches will be provided as normal.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child and for the disruption to their education. I very much hope this situation can be swiftly resolved so we can continue to deliver high quality education and opportunities for our students. I am in regular contact with the Local Authority and union representatives and will keep you informed of any progress or change.

Yours sincerely

Paul Williams Headteacher

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