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Richard Brand: Headteacher

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Dear Parents/Carers

Industrial action 1st February 2023

I am writing to update you on our plans for next Wednesday 1st February. As I explained in my previous letter the NEU have balloted its members and called for industrial action in the form of a strike on this day.

Over the last week I have worked closely with our union representatives and senior colleagues at the school to understand the situation. Following a risk assessment process, we will remain partially open on the day of the strike, but we will only be able to remain open for **Years 7 and 11 only**.

I know this will be disappointing for many of our parents and students, but we must consider the safety of our school community with significantly less supervision available. A large number of teaching staff at The Dean Academy are NEU members, so we anticipate a significant proportion of teaching staff will not be at work on these days. In addition, we expect many colleagues to be unable to work because of school closures which affect their own children.

Those staff who will be in school on the day will continue to teach classes in Year 7 and 11 face-to-face. When they have a lesson, and their teacher is not in school they will be supervised by a member of the senior team but complete independent study. School buses will run as normal for those in Year 7 and 11.

Students not in school will complete independent study from home. We will direct those students in Years 8, 9 and 10 to independent study as set by subject leaders. These will be links to videos on programmes which students are familiar with (<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage> as well as <https://sparxmaths.com>). Those students in Years 8, 9 and 10 who are eligible for free school meals will be able to collect a lunch packet from the canteen on Tuesday 31st January at the end of the school day, for the following day.

Given the disruption to education of the last 3 years, I am regretful that we cannot open the school to more year groups. We will continue to review our provision over the course of the next 3 strike days and hope to be able to support more groups on a rotation. I will keep parents and carers updated after 1st February.

I must take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand

Headteacher

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