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Richard Brand: Headteacher

24th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: NEU Strike Action

I am sure you will be aware from the national press that an education union, the NEU, has voted for industrial action against the Secretary of State for Education. This has come about following a legal ballot of its members which returned a majority preference.

The four strike days that affect this region are:

Wednesday 1st February

Thursday 2nd March

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March

In planning for the first of these days, our first responsibility is to consider whether we are able to stay open safely with reduced staffing. If we are not able to maintain appropriate student to staff ratios to open for all students, we will seek to establish, in order of priority, which year groups can safely be in school.

Planning for when staff are striking is not straight forward. To provide context, until the morning of the strike we will not know exactly which teachers will strike and which teachers will not strike. Added, teachers who are not members of the NEU are not permitted to cover the lessons of staff who are striking. The government have suggested that we use supply teachers to cover striking staff but since the pandemic it is near impossible to secure agency staff to cover short term absences like this. Further, we are unable to predict how many other staff will not be in school due to other schools being closed, resulting in childcare issues.

Almost certainly we will need to partially close to some year groups and I wanted to give you advanced warning that there is likely to be a significant level of disruption. It is our intention, if possible, to remain open for students preparing for GCSE examinations in Year 11 and also Year 7 as they are the youngest students in the school with others being set work to complete at home.

I will contact you again no later than Friday 27th January with more firm guidance. Whilst I am aware that there is little exact detail here, I hope that this will give you the opportunity to consider alternative arrangements for your child for the dates above, should it become necessary.



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Should you wish to find out more about why the NEU is taking this action, you can read their press release here: <https://neu.org.uk/press-releases/neu-take-strike-action-over-pay>

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand
Headteacher

RIB/TW - NEU strike action-240123



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