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Richard Brand: Headteacher

27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Industrial action Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

I am writing to update you on our plans for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. As I explained in my previous letter the NEU have balloted its members and this is the second of four days of intended industrial action.

I have worked closely with our union representatives and senior colleagues at the school to understand the scale of likely disruption. 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 8, 9 and 11 only**. We have prioritised Year 11 because they are approaching KS4 exams and Year 8 and 9 because they were at home during the previous day of industrial action.

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 Years 8, 9 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 8, 9 and 11.

Students not in school will complete independent study from home. We will direct those students in Years 7 and 10 to independent study as set by 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 7 and 10 who are eligible for free school meals will be able to collect a lunch packet from the canteen on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March before leaving 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 remaining strike days and hope to be able to support more groups on a rotation. I will keep parents and carers updated as we approach the final two planned days of industrial action.

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

Yours sincerely

**Richard Brand**

Headteacher

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