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Richard Brand: Headteacher

13th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Industrial action Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023

I am writing to update you on our plans for the two planned days of industrial action scheduled for later this week. As I explained in my previous letter the NEU have balloted its members and these are the third and fourth of four days of planned industrial action.

I have worked closely with our union representatives and senior colleagues at the school to understand the scale of likely disruption. We are mindful that students were not in school on Monday for a planned INSET day which could not be moved so have done all we can to ensure that every child will be in school for at least one of the two days. In addition, we have prioritised Year 11 because they are approaching KS4 exams.

Wednesday 15th March – Year 7, 10 and 11 in school only. All other students at home.

Thursday 16th March – Year 8, 9 and 11 in school only. All other students at home.

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 Wednesday and Thursday will continue to teach classes. However, when students have a lesson, and their teacher is not in school they will be supervised by a member of the senior team and complete independent study. School buses will run as normal on both days.

Students not in school will complete independent study from home. We will direct those students to independent study as set by leaders. These will be links to videos on programmes which students are familiar with (<https://classroom.thenationalacademy/subjects-by-key-stage> as well as <https://sparxmaths.com>). A reminder that students at home on either Wednesday or Thursday who are eligible for Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch from our canteen before leaving on the day before.

Given the disruption to education of the last 3 years, I am regretful that we cannot open the school to more year groups. However, we are optimistic that an end to this industrial action is near with compromise deals being reached, or likely, in Scotland and Wales.

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

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand

Headteacher

RJB/TW- NEU ind action-130323



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