

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

18 April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Continued Strike Action**

I hope that the Easter break was restful and restorative for you and your families and whether celebrating Easter, Passover, Vaisakhi, observing Ramadan or simply spending time with your loved ones that you enjoyed the bank holiday weekend. It has been great to welcome the students back into school and get back to learning. For a number of our students this is an absolutely pivotal period of time and I know the news over the holiday about continued strike action will have caused significant stress.

I have spent the last two days looking at timetables, analysing staffing and having discussions with our local NEU representative and have been able to secure staffing to open safely for Year 11 and 13 students for both strike days. Students in Year 11 and 13 will be expected to attend as normal and will attend their timetabled lessons unless they have an exam which will run as normal. Year 12 mock exams will also be running as scheduled in the original mock timetable.

Unfortunately, for all other year groups (including Year 12 students without mock exams) the school will have to remain closed on health and safety grounds. Having school age children myself, I know how disruptive this can be for families. I am genuinely sorry that I am unable to guarantee the safety of the rest of the students being on site, but we will provide remote work as we have done previously.

The strike dates are:

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

I of course hope that the four teaching unions and the DfE reach an agreement before then and these strikes can be avoided, but I wanted to let you know as early as possible that it does not sound likely at this point. I do not want to see your child's education continued to be disrupted by strike action, but I also understand the financial situation schools will find themselves in, if any pay offer is not matched by increased funding and the impact that it will have on our students also. All of us have our own views about the strikes that are happening across the country at the moment but from the perspective of a Head Teacher, the Government offer would cost the school somewhere in the region of a quarter of a million pounds. This is money that would have to be taken from things such as learning resources, special education needs, mental health provision, counselling, safeguarding or trips and visits. These are services that we offer to ensure every child has the best chance of success and that we live by our motto of "Ambition for All". Due to the cuts in the Local Authority, the NHS and Social Care spending on these services is absolutely critical for a number of our students and it would be a huge shame to have to cut back on the quality of our offer when our community is feeling so much pressure from so many directions already.

As always, we can only control what is in our control, and I remain completely committed to providing the absolute best experience for all of our students every moment that we are open. I

hope, like you, that those in control of the decision making around the strikes are able to reach an agreement that protects the education of our students in the long term.

My thanks as always for your support.

Kind regards,

**Mr. K Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**