



WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

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HEADTEACHER: Mr T Hardcastle

23rd February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Strike Action

On Monday 16th January, the National Education Union (NEU), one of the trade unions representing the teaching profession, announced its intention to strike. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during the first day of strike action on Wednesday 1st February. However, the industrial action continues, and the next planned day of strike action is Tuesday 28th February.

Due to the number of staff planning to strike, we have decided to close the school on Tuesday 28th February to Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 students. The school will remain open for Year 11 students. Year 13 lessons will be delivered remotely to students at home via Google Meet.

Arrangements for Year 11

The strike day provides a unique opportunity for Year 11 students to complete some of their pre-planned assessments in maths and science without missing lessons. As students were already expecting to sit these assessments at various points next week, facilitating them on the strike day instead, when no in-class learning is taking place, is logical. Further details regarding the timings of the day will be sent out tomorrow, Friday 24th February.

The results from these assessments will help students and teachers identify where to focus their efforts during these final stages of teaching, revision and intervention.

Arrangements for Year 13

Year 13 lessons will be delivered remotely to students at home via Google Meet. Due to the nature of the strike action, we cannot run virtual classes for all lessons. Staff who do not intend to strike on Tuesday will explain to their classes if a Google Meet will take place and how to access it.

In line with Department for Education guidance, all students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and those in Local Authority care will also be invited to school. The families of these students will receive a further letter explaining the arrangements for the day.

All students eligible for a free school meal will receive one. The parents of these students will be contacted shortly.

Due to the nature of the strike action, we cannot know for certain how many teaching staff will be working each day. On the strike day, if staffing levels are significantly below what we were expecting, we may have to close the school for all pupils. However, every effort will be made to give advance notice. Likewise, we will let you know as soon as possible if strike action is cancelled. If so, the school will be open as normal to all students.



The NEU has two further days of strike action planned, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. I will write to you again before these days to explain our plans.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the arrangements outlined above. The decision to close the school to most students is not an easy decision to make; we appreciate that it will likely disrupt your usual plans and we thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Hardcastle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Mr T Hardcastle
Headteacher