

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU have declared that further strike action will take place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April** and **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**. The strike is happening due to a national dispute between the union and the government over teachers' pay and not because of any school-based issues.

As was the case on the last strike days, it isn't possible for us to open safely and effectively to the vast majority of our students. I have had to prioritise those students taking statutory examinations this year and next in order to minimise the impact on their learning; therefore, the Academy will open to students in **Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 only** on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and will close to students in Years 7-9.

I am sorry about the disruption to your child's education. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but is necessary in order that we can provide a safe and secure environment for students whilst continuing to deliver a high quality of education.

### **Students in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13**

On Thursday next week and Tuesday of the following week, all students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 must attend school as normal, in full school uniform. If your child is ill, you should contact the attendance team as normal.

### **Students in Years 7-9**

Students in Years 7-9 should remain at home on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Students should complete the work set on their Google Classroom accounts or provided by their teachers. In addition, students can access lessons provided by The Oak Academy through the following link: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>

### **Free School Meals**

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, a grab bag will be available for your child to collect at 1pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Collection will be from the student gate on Crewe Road. If you would like your child to collect a grab bag you **MUST** complete the following form (You will need to complete a form for every child.) by 8pm Wednesday 25th April (for collection Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May).

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/R0KIS2/>

**Ambition • Bravery • Respect**

**Picket Lines**

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students, parents and carers that as a Trust we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day. We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or students to refrain from joining any picket line.

This dispute is between Teaching Unions and the Government, not individual schools, but I appreciate that it may well cause some issues for your families.

Thank you for your understanding.

C Eastwood  
Vice Principal