

Friday 30th June 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU have declared that further strike action will take place on **Wednesday 5th July 2023** and **Friday 7th July**. 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 and 12** on **Wednesday 5th July 2023** and **Friday 7th July** 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 Years 10 and 12

On Wednesday and Friday next week, all students in Years 10 and 12 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 **Wednesday 5th July 2023** and **Friday 7th July**. 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 **Wednesday 5th July 2023** and **Friday 7th July**. 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 Monday 3rd July 2023 (for collection on Wednesday 5th July 2023 and Friday 7th July).

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/6Y8GEF/>

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.

L Proctor
Principal