

30 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### Re NEU Industrial Action

As you are probably aware from the media, the NEU teaching union have voted to take strike action from 1 February across all school in England and Wales. We recognise that this is a national dispute between the NEU and government regarding a recent pay award and the lack of funding in schools to pay for it. The dates of the NEU industrial action that will potentially affect schools in Kent are:

- 1 February 2023,
- 2 March 2023,
- 15 March 2023
- 16 March 2023

I am contacting you to explain how school will be disrupted on these dates, we appreciate this will be frustrating for parents but respect the rights of staff to withdraw their labour to take part in official strike action. Please be aware that members of the NEU are not expected to inform their employer if they intend to take part in strike action which adds a layer of challenge to us as we are planning for these occasions.

First and foremost is the safety of our students and we recognise we will not be able to operate a normal school day so have taken the decision to put in alternative arrangements in the first instance for Wednesday 1 February 2023. We will review these plans after this date.

On Wednesday 1 February 2023 Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 will move to remote learning for this first day of industrial action. Staff are not expected to set cover work when taking industrial action so where possible work will be set on Teams for these year groups to complete, however if this is not in place, students can work from their Knowledge Organiser answering the Big Questions or access lessons from BBC Bitesize, GCSEPod or the national Oak Academy.

We will expect Year 7 in school however there may be a need to change some of the usual activities on the day depending on staff absence. Years 11 and 13 currently have mock examinations however on Wednesday there are also external public examinations. Students in Year 11 and 13 with examinations in the morning that are external exams should attend for these – they will return home afterwards. School exams scheduled for Wednesday afternoon will be moved so the year groups can revise from home that day rather than in school.

Students who fall into any of the following categories: Pupil Premium, Free School Meals, SEND, CIC or Key Worker families who are essential to emergency services can come into school and will be supervised by staff whilst they take part in the remote learning. If you want your child/children to be in school and they are part of the identified groups above please let us know by following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/C8Sve31NhR> so we can plan appropriately for the number of students in school.

We have not taken the decision to have some year groups learning from home lightly and we thank you for your support with this. We will write to you regarding plans for subsequent industrial action days in due course.

Kind regards



Dr R Speller  
Headteacher