

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

20th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

A somewhat shorter letter this week and only one point to share. You may well have heard the news late Friday of last week and Monday of this week that two teaching unions announced the results of their ballots on whether or not to take industrial action against the government over funding and conditions. The NEU reported back late Monday afternoon that their members will likely be striking on the following dates: **1st February and 1st, 15th and 16th March.**

This does not necessarily mean that we will be closed to all of our youngsters but this is a distinct possibility as we will need to make sure that we can operate safely; if we don't have the number of staff we need to be safe, then we will close. We will endeavour to have our Year 11 in for their PPEs and we will work hard to try to accommodate those classed by the Department for Education as vulnerable.

The whole purpose of industrial action is to have the maximum impact and lead those who the dispute is with to listen, on this occasion it is the government. This situation is different from our usual approach as we normally have a way forward and plan for most things, however this time we may not be able to let you know what is happening until as late as the day before. This is far from ideal but all schools are in the same position. Safety is key and if we do not have the numbers to operate in a safe way then we of course need to put measures in place.

It must be made clear that this is national industrial action and not against us as a school. I encourage all of our staff members to be in a union and to vote for what they think is right. I will keep you all posted on developments and what our plans will be once I know what each staff member intends to do, but they are under no obligation to let me know as per the rules of industrial action. As I say this may very well be on the day before.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher