

28 February, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Strike Day Thursday 2nd March

I am writing to you to update you on the situation at Glebelands with regards to the planned industrial action by teaching colleagues from the NEU. This is scheduled to take place this week, on **Thursday 2nd March**. The action is nationwide and in response to:

- The pay increases to school staff not being fully-funded, so that school budgets are having to absorb and rebalance staff pay increases alongside hikes in energy costs, services and resources – a situation that is not sustainable.
- The real-terms erosion in teachers' pay and subsequent crisis in teacher recruitment and retention.

There is a possibility that, through ongoing negotiations, future strike action may be averted. These days are currently scheduled for Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th of March.

It is right that any colleague planning to strike are not compelled to make me aware of their intentions, although many colleagues have done so out of respect for parents and students to enable us to plan effectively and ensure that I am able to safely run the school.

I am afraid to say that having conducted an analysis of staff absence and risk assessment, we will only be able to open the school safely on Thursday 2nd March for Years 7, 10 and 11. In addition to this, those students in Years 8 and 9 who are deemed to be vulnerable will be invited in a separate letter tomorrow to attend school.

Students in Year 8 and 9 will receive on-line lessons via TEAMS from their teachers as long as they are not striking or absent due to illness.

If children are on site, then food service and buses will be available as normal.

We are still hopeful that following Union meetings with the government that strikes will be postponed but feel this is more likely for the strikes planned later in the month. I am aware now that Year 9 have missed 2 days of their education due to these strikes so will endeavour as much as possible to ensure they are not the year group that has to remain at home if the strikes goes ahead on the 15th and 16th of March as currently scheduled.

Yours sincerely



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