



Wadhams School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Thursday 26th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: NEU Industrial Action – Partial School Closure on Wednesday 01.02.23

You will have seen in the news that the NEU have balloted industrial action over a number of days, four of which are likely to affect us directly: **Wednesday 1 February**, Thursday 2 March, Wednesday 15 March, Thursday 16 March 2023.

It is important to explain that industrial action is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions of employment, and not because of any issues specifically relating to our school.

As Headteacher, I have had to consider how we minimise the impact of this disruption without compromising on the health and safety of everyone attending the school site.

At the same time, consideration has to be given to the quality of learning we can maintain and provide.

I am fortunate to have open and positive relationships with union members, with a good understanding as to the anticipated level of staff absence on Wednesday 1st February. Speaking with other Headteachers across our community, it is likely that some staff will also be affected by the need for childcare, so may be unable to attend on the day.

For this reason, I have taken the decision to partially close the school on Wednesday.

This means that the school will only be open to selected groups of students:

- Year 11 students
- Sixth Form students
- Vulnerable students (as defined in the appendix at the end of this letter)
- Children of Critical Workers (as defined in the appendix at the end of this letter)

All other students (Years 7-10) should remain at home on this day.

In order to make plans for the day, it is important that we know who is attending. We are expecting all Year 11 students in as normal – business as usual! Sixth Form students may attend and use the day as a warm study space.

If you feel that your child is eligible to attend because they belong to one of the 2 key groups (Vulnerable or Children of Critical Workers) please complete this survey [here](#) to let me know whether they will be attending.

I will write to you all again soon to explain how work will be supplied on the day, as well as any other useful information.

Do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any questions and as ever, I am grateful of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher

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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman



Appendix A

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance. This might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services or who have previously received support from children's social care services (as identified by local authorities)
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - children and young people in a family circumstance presenting challenges for them, such as drug and alcohol misuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Parents who are critical workers work in the following sectors:

- Health & social care
- Education & childcare
- Key public services
- Local & national government
- Food & other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services