



Friday 27 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Strike Action

I hope this letter finds you well.

As I alerted you to on Monday, the membership of the National Education Union (NEU) has voted to take industrial action in schools across the country. This will take the form of strike action and is currently due to take place on Wednesday 1st February, with subsequent days planned for 2nd, 15th and 16th March.

The industrial action is a result of a national dispute between the NEU and the government and is not specific to our school nor to United Learning. The overwhelming majority of schools locally and nationally will be impacted but each school will have different arrangements for pupils due to the number of members of its staff who are likely to strike.

We have been working closely with colleagues here in order to plan for the strikes so that we can minimise any disruption to our pupils' education. Our current understanding is that a significant number of colleagues here at Huish Episcopi Academy will be taking industrial action and we are thus planning for this accordingly.

Our view, at present, is that we will be able to keep the school open on the proposed strike days for some pupils, with the following arrangements in place for Wednesday 1st February:

- **Years 11, 12 and 13 to attend school as normal.** Year 11 will have a programme of examination preparation and practice. Years 12 and 13 will be engaged in a mixture of lessons and supervised private study. Travel will be as normal. Catering facilities will continue to be provided for students here at the academy.
- **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to work from home.** Please do not send your child in if they are in these year groups. You are responsible for their wellbeing, supervision and food arrangements on the day. Those pupils entitled to free school meals will receive their half-term voucher next week, which will include an additional day to cover this strike day. We will be providing specific links and suggested work next week before Wednesday.
- **Vulnerable students:** We have a list of those students who we have identified as forming our vulnerable cohort and we will be contacting their parents/carers individually on Monday to invite them to attend the Academy on the Wednesday.

I apologise for any potential inconvenience this causes you but we are doing everything we can to minimise the number of pupils who are impacted by the industrial action. It is unlikely that the industrial action will be called off, but if this were to happen, I will write to you to confirm that the school will be fully open.

Huish Episcopi Academy

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If you have any questions or concerns about the alternative arrangements outlined above, please do contact the main reception on office@hea.ac.uk.

If the industrial action continues on the subsequent dates already announced, I will write to you again with an update on our plans for dealing with each day.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Nat Parnell
Principal

