

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Strike Action

I hope this letter finds you well.

As I alerted you to in January, 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 in the South West on Thursday 2nd March, with subsequent days planned for 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 Thursday 2nd March:

- **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.

We have been asked by the government to consider whether we can make arrangements for some of the children of critical workers. The numbers and logistics involved mean we can do this for only those in year 7 (those in year 11 will be in anyway):

- **Years 7 children of critical workers.** If your child is in year 7 and on the list defined below (pages 3 & 4), please complete the [Year 7 Children of Critical Workers Survey \(link here\)](#) and let us know if you intend to send your child in to school by Tuesday 28th February. Please do not send your child to school on Thursday 2nd March if this form has not been completed.
- **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 a voucher by email in advance of Thursday 2nd March. Please see below for specific work for them to undertake (page 5).

- **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 to invite them to attend the Academy on the Thursday.

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.

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



Critical workers

We expect you to maximise the number of children, pupils and students who are in face-to-face provision during an emergency. If the impact of an emergency means that not everyone can attend face-to-face provision, we expect you to inform parents as part of your emergency communications of the impact, set out the groups you are prioritising for face-to-face provision, and invite parents to tell you if they meet one of the critical worker categories.

Parents whose work is critical to an emergency response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. If exceptional circumstances mean that attendance is temporarily limited, children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to their setting if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during an emergency response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- an emergency response
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and Arm's length bodies (ALB).

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing

- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to an emergency response)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during an emergency response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity, and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during an emergency response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

Student Work for Teachers' Strike Day

Thursday 2nd March 2023 - Work for pupils in Years 7-10

To join their Strike Day Google Classroom class, students will need to sign into Google Classroom then click on the + symbol at the top right hand side of the home page, select 'Join Class', enter the code then click the blue join button on the top right. All the work for the day will be available there for them to use.

Year 7 code = 71nwc55

Year 8 code = n4hqcf1

Year 9 code = 72ekqx2

Year 10 code = uf6yo5e

This work is also available on our school website.

[Years 7-10 Student Work for Teacher Strike Day 02.03.23](#)

The KS3 lessons are from 'Oak Academy' and the KS4 lessons are from 'Seneca' and 'BBC Bitesize' and all lessons correspond to the Academy's curriculum. To enable completion of the work and provide structure, we recommend students stick to the timings of the school day.

We would like all students to complete an hour each of the core subjects (English, maths and science) as well as either history or geography (Years 7 and 8 will do history, Year 9 will do geography and Year 10 students will do the one they are studying for GCSE). We recommend moving on to the next subject after an hour, even if the work hasn't been completed. Students can then use the fifth hour to complete any unfinished work from earlier in the day.

If the lesson involves a topic a student has already done in class they should still complete it as it will give them an opportunity to revise and secure their existing learning.

Please note, we are not able to ask staff to mark and review work under the conditions of industrial action.