

10 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have had a good week so far and that the wet weather is not dampening your spirits too much with Spring on the horizon.

Next week will see further industrial action undertaken by members of the National Education Union (NEU) and of course, this will have a significant impact on the running of both of our schools. The following information will be confirmed or amended as soon as possible but I wanted to give you all as much notice as possible as this strike will last for **two days - Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March.**

At our Upper School, we will only be able to open once again for our Year 11 and year 13 students. Invitations to attend appointments and interventions for Year 13, and schedules for Year 11 will be forwarded to you and our students in due course. Currently this means we will again be closed for all other years - Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12. Should there be changes to this, we will write directly to our Upper School parents as soon as possible. This applies to **both** days.

At our Lower School, whilst we will be open for a large number of classes, there will be disruption on both strike days.

Wednesday 15th March - only **Year 1 Ash** will not be in school. All other classes should be in school on this day.

Thursday 16th March - the following classes will not be in school: Reception Oak, both Year 1 classes (1 Ash and 1 Yew), 3 Sycamore and 4 Cherry. All other classes should be in school on this day.

Should there be any changes on either strike day, we will write to our Lower School parents as soon as possible.

One of our strengths as a school is the work that we have done in developing our Parent Partnership and our termly Parent Partnership online meetings. Having our parents engaged in school is incredibly important for our young people so that they know that we are all working together. Our last meeting was incredibly informative and helpful and it will not be too much longer before we hold our next one where the agenda is set by the comments and questions raised - by you! Occasionally, parents will ask 'how' they can help at home and 'what' they can do to support their son/daughter. I came across an article earlier in the week from the Education Endowment Foundation who simply put it like this:

'Parental engagement' is where parents and carers are engaged in the learning outcomes of their child. Parental engagement can be school-led or more autonomous. Some examples of parental engagement include encouraging their child to read at home, helping to create a good home learning environment, or ensuring high levels of attendance. Levels of parental engagement, as well as parents' and carers' educational attitudes and behaviours, are consistently associated with pupil's academic outcomes and behaviour and schools can support parental engagement by providing practical strategies.

If you need any help or support or practical tips, please do get in touch with us and we will be happy to discuss a way forward. Having somewhere to work and being in school are always important - as is reading every single day!

I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful weekend.

Yours faithfully

R Denial
Executive Headteacher

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Denial', written in a cursive style.

R Denial
Executive Headteacher