



23rd January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you about a number of things. The recently publicised strike action has come straight to the top of the list.

Strike Action by NEU

The NEU have announced a number of days of strike action. The dates that will affect The Buckingham School are:

- Wednesday, 1 February
- Thursday, 2 March
- Wednesday, 15 March
- Thursday, 16 March

Please understand that the members of the NEU in this School are as passionately committed to your child's wellbeing and education as everyone else. This has been demonstrated repeatedly in the face of the challenges of the last few years. School staff are worried about their pay, but many are far more worried about deteriorating conditions causing increasing pressures in the job, which are affecting the physical and mental health of too many school staff.

We will be in touch with you nearer the above dates, but expect measures which include:

- Senior Leaders working with Union members to help manage the strike in a way that allows Union members to send their message to the Government while managing the impact on you and your children.
- Given the high proportion of NEU members in this School, we will not be able to run a normal school day and certainly not for all students.
- We will prioritise teaching Year 11 and Year 13 in our planning, as well as ensuring that our more vulnerable students are invited into School
- We may have to move around some calendar events; we will update you if this is the case.
- Plans are in place to move to remote learning for part, or even the whole School, as a worst-case scenario.

Uniform – September 2023

Please would all families continue the clear pattern that we are seeing – students are replacing uniform items with items which meet the new Policy.

From September 2023, all unbranded school uniform items will be required to meet the new Uniform Policy. The most notable change will be skirts.

Some confusion has arisen because of mixed messaging around branded items: from September 2023, all current branded items of uniform will be acceptable for as long as they still fit and are still in good condition. We do not wish for these items, which are the more expensive part of the uniform, to be wasted.

Financial Difficulties

The pressures on us all continue. The School has some means with which to support families; please contact finance@buckinghamsschool.org.

Some families are entitled to various support from Government, which has to be applied for, such as Free Meals, or have done so in the last six years. Even if your family's financial circumstances have improved, this money can still be claimed for the benefit of the School as a whole. Children from Armed Forces families also are entitled to claim for pupil premium. Again, please contact finance@buckinghamsschool.org for further information on the support available.

Please note that the School is now running a free breakfast provision, every morning, for all students. The Main Gate opens at 8.00am for this.

With best wishes,



Mr A McGinnes

Headteacher

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