



24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the National Education Union (NEU) are intending to take strike action on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, in relation to school funding and teacher pay and conditions. This follows the day of action last month and could well be followed by two further days, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Our plans for 1<sup>st</sup> March are slightly different to those for 1<sup>st</sup> February:

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, The Buckingham School will be closed to many students, as we cannot guarantee there will be adequate staffing in place to run the School safely. This is because a majority of our teaching staff, including leaders, belong to the NEU. Further, some non-NEU staff may need to be at home, to look after their young children, who are affected at other schools.

**We will be open for certain students, who we will invite separately**

- There will not be any teaching, but they will be able to access learning in one of our computer rooms

**We will be fully open for Year 11 and 13 to take Mock Exams and to study**

- Students with Mock Examinations scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March must attend school to sit them. There will not be other opportunities to take the assessments scheduled for that day. In addition, students will have a valuable opportunity to engage in study and to get some academic support from the teachers who are present in School.
- They will not be taught in classes, but they will be helped with work they already have. All Year 11 students will be supervised and required to stay all day.
- Year 13 students will have looser supervision, and will be able to leave site at times that they do not have exams, if they wish.

For those students attending, School will start and end at the usual time and buses will be running as normal. Normal lunchtime service will be available. School uniform/Sixth Form dress code will be expected. The students above will be expected in school and our Attendance Office will respond to absences in the usual way.

All of the Teaching Unions have stated there can be no expectation on non-striking teachers to deliver 'live' remote lessons. Furthermore, non-striking teachers cannot be compelled to provide cover or to deliver lessons, set work or teach merged classes to cover for a striking colleague. Support staff will not be used to replace teachers, but may provide supervision in some instances.

Our normal curriculum is suspended and no new teaching will take place on the day, either in school, or online. Before next Wednesday, many teachers will remind students of the many things they could do, especially online, when at home. If in doubt, ask your child to read a book, Kindle, etc.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the Government and Unions. From a school leadership perspective, I share Headteachers' concerns about unfunded salary increases, staff recruitment and the various other financial pressures we are managing, in order to provide the best educational experience we can for our young people. From a whole school perspective, I worry hugely about the impact these financial pressures have on the working conditions for our school staff.

With best wishes,



**Mr A McGinnes**

Headteacher

[aallen@buckingham-school.org](mailto:aallen@buckingham-school.org)