9th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will know from the press the NEU plan further industrial action on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. Following our experience of the previous days of action we can expect between 25 and 30 members of staff to be unavailable for work on this day and after risk assessing the situation once again I am sorry to have to close school to the majority of young people.

**Year 7-10 will need to remain at home on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March and work will be available on Epraise.**

**Arrangements for Year 11:**

There is an English Theatre trip scheduled for Y11 on Wednesday 15th March. We are able to staff this trip and so will bring all Y11 in for P1-3. After 12 noon students will have lunch prior to the visit or if they did not book on the trip they will be allowed to leave site and go home. Buses will run as usual in the morning but will not be running home on this day. We are going to open to all Year 11 on Thursday 16th March. Where teachers are present, Year 11 will have a usual lesson. Where teachers are not present we will bring students together and provide supervised time for private study and revision. Therefore, if your child is in Year 11, please make sure that your child brings their revision resources so that this time can be used effectively. Lunch will be available from the Canteen.

I have committed to keeping our school open for the most vulnerable children and we will invite some young people into this provision but if you feel that your child is vulnerable if they were to work from home on these dates and would like to request a place, please complete this online form so that we can plan the staffing for this. These students may need to be supervised alongside a Y11 class.

<https://forms.office.com/e/EYiq0yV4Cq>

I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to families because of the industrial action and the potential loss of face to face learning time. Schools are facing cuts in funding at a time when we are also facing more significant challenges in terms of young people displaying profound needs. It is increasingly hard to recruit professionals who are prepared to work in the public sector for the pay that we can provide. We have also found that as other agencies are at capacity, much of the work to provide the therapy and support that children need falls to schools to provide. If we can’t provide it no one will. As you know some of our staff are in school at 6am and still working late into the evening and at the weekends to try and meet this need. Staff do this because they care but in order to provide the services required properly, it has to be funded appropriately.

Many thanks

*Tony McCabe*

*Headteacher*