18th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will know from the press the NEU plan further industrial action on Thursday 22 April 2023 and Tuesday 2nd May. Following our experience of the previous day 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 Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May and work will be available on Epraise.**

**Arrangements for Year 11:**

We are going to open to Year 11 on both days. 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 at the earlier time of 12noon.

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> Please complete by Monday 24th April.

I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to families because of the industrial action and the potential loss of face to face learning time. We know that working from home disadvantages some students some students more than others depending on their learning style. The context for the action is that schools are facing cuts in funding in real terms 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 and many staff taking action are doing it for this cause. As you know it has become the norm for some staff to be in school at 6am and still work late into the evening and at the weekends to try and meet this need currently. 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*