

NW/VS/February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this half term I am writing to share key dates early in Spring. We break up for half term on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February and staff return on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Pupils return on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

This is a five-week term and we close for Easter on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. We will be offering study clinics for pupils who are embarking on public exams in the summer to help them prepare for exams commencing on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. More details will come out about this in mid-March.

The second strike day by NEU staff will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. There is further planned strike action on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The strike action is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and school funding. It is not because of any specific issues at our school.

I am informing you in order to provide you with as much notice as possible that the likelihood is that school will be closed to all pupils except those we feel are better placed to be in school. We can only open the school if we have enough staff on site to keep everyone safe and I have made the decision to close to pupils except those who we have been in contact with.

Year 11 have pre planned exams on this day, 1<sup>st</sup> March, and we will proceed with these for all of year 11. **We will be open to all year 11 to sit their exams on this day.**

The strike action against the Government relates to rising costs in school and the lack of funding to support children's education.

**Therefore, as a direct result of these issues, many teachers in schools across the country will be choosing to strike. Not for their own pay particularly, but because they fear for the education profession in general and the impact sustained underfunding is having on their pupils and your children.**

Please be assured we are all **committed to providing a safe and secure environment for your child as well as delivering high-quality teaching in the classroom.**

If your child, primary or secondary, would like a warm meal or sandwiches these will be on offer in school on 1<sup>st</sup> March between 12.10-12.50pm in the Secondary Canteen. Can pupils please inform their class teacher or form tutor by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February of their intention to take up this offer so we can cater accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Neil Wilkinson

Mr Neil Wilkinson  
Executive Headteacher