26th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Industrial Action Wednesday 1st February 2023**

You may be aware from media coverage that teaching unions have declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1st February. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the Government over teachers’ pay conditions, and not because of any issues at our school.

The school will be closed to most students on this day. Students should use this time to consolidate their learning from the year so far, reviewing their work and learning from the autumn term and start of the spring term. Further guidance about this will be shared.

**Attendance to school on this day will only be compulsory for students in Year 11, however some other groups of students will also be invited to attend. Please find further details below.**

**Year 11 students**

All Year 11 students are still expected in school as normal, from 8.40 – 3.30pm. This year group is being prioritised due to the upcoming public exams.

Year 11 students will have a chance to attend a taster session in the sixth form, including attending a session covering the support available for those considering applications for medicine, dentistry and/or Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

All Year 11 students will also complete practice exam questions in supervised conditions and receive study support. It is essential that they attend. If your Year 11 child does not attend then you will receive an absence phone call as normal.

**Year 12 and 13 students**

Students in Year 12 and 13 will have the option to attend if they would like to use school facilities to study and to access study support on this day. This will be optional with students asked to sign in if they are onsite. Absence calls will not be made.
Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Students in these year groups will be asked to study from home on this day.

If this is difficult for you to facilitate then there will be an option for your child to attend school. If you need to send your child to school on this day, please let us know by writing a note for your child’s form tutor by Monday 30th January. We will send a message to parents in advance of Wednesday to confirm that we have received your request and that we are expecting your child in school.

A small number of students from all year groups will be directly invited in, where we feel that they would benefit from additional study support on this day. We will contact you if this involves your child.

Free school meals

If your child is in school, and is eligible for free school meals, then they will have lunch at school as normal. If they are not in school then they can pick up a packed lunch from main reception between midday and 1pm. Please let us know by Friday 27th January if your child will do this. They should tell their form tutor.

If you have any questions, please contact us through main school reception.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Ward
Headteacher