

20th January 2023

This Week's News

- Information regarding strike action
- Activity Week
- VR Headsets
- New Dance Studio
- Cold Weather

Key Dates:

January

25th – Year 9 Options Evening

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TEACHERS' STRIKE DAYS

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing with important information about the strike days that were announced this week by staff from the National Education Union (NEU) which is one of the largest teaching unions in the country.

The Industrial Action is happening because of a national dispute between the NEU and the Government over funding in schools and, as a part of this, a rise in teacher's pay. If you want to find out more information about the reasons and aims for this action you can click on [this link](#).

There are several days planned for action over the next few weeks across the country. The first of these strike days will take place on Wednesday 1st February.

As with most schools, the majority of teachers at our College are members of the National Education Union. As such we are expecting significant disruption on this day. We are still formulating the plans for those days however we wanted to give you an early warning to have an alternative plan for learning and childcare in place just in case we have to close to some or all year groups on that, and potentially other, strike days.

Whilst we will endeavour to keep the College fully open to all year groups, it is important to recognise that this may not be possible due to the levels of staffing we need to supervise students. It is possible that in some cases we may have to move to remote learning, and so could I ask that you make sure you have a suitable device and network connection at home to ensure your child can continue to learn. If your child receives free school meals, please contact our Pupil Premium team to ask about help we may be able to provide around digital connectivity and the provision of free school meals on that day.

As we did during Covid lockdowns, we will continue to cater for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The Government's definition of critical workers and vulnerable children can be found [here](#). In due course we will send out a booking form for those needing this provision.

Our apologies for any disruption the strike days may cause and please rest assured we will do everything possible to minimise the impact to the learning of students. We would also like to reiterate that the dispute is between the National Education Union and the Government and not against our College. Our staff care passionately about the future of education in England and do their job because they are committed to providing the highest quality of education for the children in their care. It is expected that many schools across the country will be similarly disrupted depending on their numbers of teachers in that particular union.

Over the next two weeks we will receive more information about the impact on the College and will send out more specific details about how the 1st February will be organised for students in due course.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Regards

Andrew Davis
Principal

Cold Weather

After a spell of cold weather this week students can wear gloves, scarfs and woolly hats. Whilst we do not usually allow hats to be worn around the site, we do recognise that students may need to wear them on very cold days. Students can also wear t-shirts and thermal clothing under their uniform. However, we do not allow hooded jumpers, sweatshirts or any jumpers that are not part of our uniform. A reminder that students should wear just one coat.

Activity Week

Please ensure you have made a choice for your child for Activity Week using the form emailed last week. There are options that do not incur a cost. Students who have not made a choice for the week will be offered classroom based activities. If you have not received the email with the choices form, please email activitiesweek@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

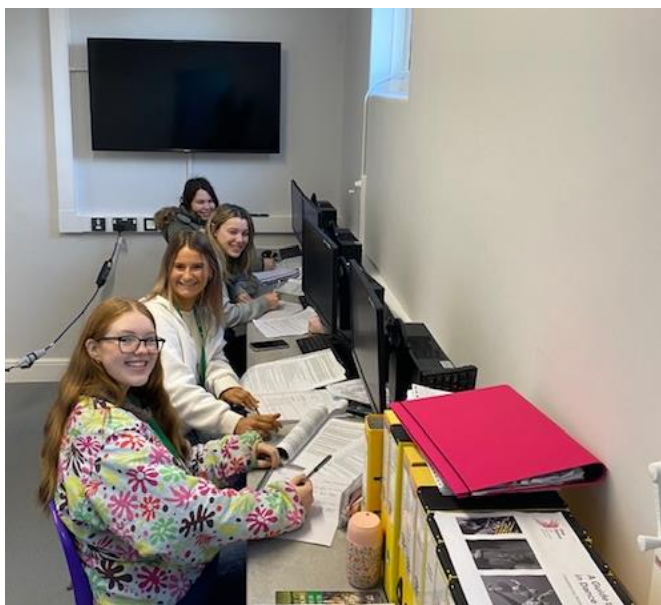
Virtual Reality Headset

As more and more children now have VR headsets the NSPCC have produced some advice on ensuring children are safe when using them.

[Virtual Reality Headsets | NSPCC](#)

New Dance Studio

After a full refurbishment, our new dance studio reopened this term with a buzz of activity. As well as providing a stunning new space to dance, the studio also provides a new A level Dance theory area. Over the past 2 weeks, the GCSE and A level dancers have been rehearsing most days after school getting ready for their choreography exams and our annual dance production The Blend. Dates for The Blend this year are 13th and 14th March and it will be at Exeter Phoenix Theatre - tickets will be on sale very soon, so watch this space!



This week Mrs Phillips also started the new Kick Start Dance programme, offering a term of training with our resident dance artist Kay Crook from Chhaya Dance Collective on Tuesday evenings. This has also been funded in-part by our Aspire Programme and was very well attended by both the junior and senior groups.

For more information about the Kick Start Aspire Programme, please contact Mrs Phillips directly.

Reporting Absence

To report absence please use the online form on the Contact Us page of our website [here](#).

Vacancies in College

We have a number of **new vacancies** advertised on our website: [Here](#)

Posts Include:

Not seen a job for you? Use our Talent Pool form to join our mailing list should appropriate career opportunities arise:
[Exmouth Community College - Join Talent Pool \(exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk\)](https://exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)