



Exmouth
Community
College
Academy Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Industrial Strike Action 1st February 2023

As I communicated to you in the latest Parent and Carer News, the National Education Union (NEU) are taking industrial action because of a national dispute between the NEU and the Government over funding in schools and, as a part of this, a rise in the pay of teachers. As a result, there will be national strike action which will impact the College on 1st February.

In the event of a strike, the Department for Education expects Principals and Headteachers to take all reasonable steps to keep schools open for as many students as possible whilst ensuring that staff and students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

Over the last week myself and the Senior Leadership Team have been reviewing our position and speaking with colleagues regarding the planned Industrial Action to assess the options available to ensure the safety of students and staff onsite and minimise the disruption to learning on the 1st February. As a result, I have outlined our plans for the day below.

College Opening

Due to the large number of teachers indicating they intend to, or are considering to, use their legal right to strike I have taken the decision to only open the College to *Vulnerable* and *Critical Worker* students and Year 11 in the morning of Wednesday 1st February. All other students will complete their learning online where possible.

If your child/ren is in either the vulnerable or critical worker category and you booked a place using the form sent out earlier in the week, we will write to you separately to inform you of the plan for the day.

Remote Learning

As part of my communication earlier in the week, I did request that preparations were made for remote learning to commence on the 1st February. We do appreciate that this does place added stresses for some parents and carers so have tried to plan to support you and your child during the day.

During strike action, teachers are not obliged to notify the College of their absence or set work for students on the day of the strike. It is therefore difficult to suggest all students attend online lessons. We are also aware that families with more than one child, might not have the equipment to facilitate online lessons for all.

Key stage 3 students (years 7, 8 & 9): If class teachers are in College on the 1st February, they have been asked to send a ClassCharts notification by 9am on the day to indicate they

will be available during the timetabled lesson. They will then set a lessons worth of work on ClassCharts for students to complete and will indicate if they are available on TEAMS or via email should your child need support.

Key stage 4 and Post 16 students (years 10, 12 & 13): If class teachers are in College on the 1st February, they have been asked to send a ClassCharts notification by 9am on the day to indicate they will be available during the timetabled lesson. Staff will then teach live lessons via TEAMS.

Year 11: Students in Year 11 will be invited to attend their Mock Results Morning from 8.45am – 10.45am in the Main Hall. Students should enter the Green Close site using the top Phear Park gate where they will be greeted and registered by staff. Online lessons will then commence from 11.35pm via TEAMS. Year 11 students do not need to wear uniform.

ICT Exam (year 11)

The exam will still run as intended. The students sitting the exam will be contacted directly regarding arrangements.

School Busses

We are awaiting confirmation regarding school busses running on the 1st February. We will communicate this information directly to those who use a school bus.

Free School Meals

We are committed to providing Free School Meals to those who are eligible on the 1st February. The Pupil Premium team will be contacting those on our Free School Meals register to offer a packed lunch order for this day.

Counselling Appointments

All pre-arranged counselling appointments in College will go ahead. Students should sign in at the Green Close reception where they will be met for their appointment.

Attendance

Students not attending College will be coded as Y; the Y code will not count towards the student's absence record

Future Strike Days

These arrangements are for 1st February only and we will notify parents of arrangements for subsequent days which are impacted by strike action closer to the time. These dates that may directly impact the College are:

1. 2nd March
2. 15th March
3. 16th March

As I have mentioned previously, 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.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Davis
Principal