



Exmouth
Community
College
Academy Trust

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Principal: A J Davis BSc (Hons), PGCPSE, NPQH

28th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Strike Day 2nd March 2023

As I communicated to you last week, the National Education Union (NEU) are again 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 teacher's pay. As a result, there will be national strike action which will impact the College on Thursday 2nd March.

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 2nd March. As a result I have outlined our plans for the day below.

College Opening

Due to the 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 key stage 5 and *Vulnerable* and *Critical Worker* students on Thursday 2nd March. 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 last week, we will write to you separately to inform you of the plan for the day.

Teachers of Key stage 5 Students will contact their classes via TEAMS and email by 8.30am on the morning of the 2nd March (many will choose to do this prior to this time). If students know their first lesson, starting at 8.45am, is on they should go straight to their classroom. For those students who need to catch the bus or a lift into College and are unsure if their first lesson is on, they should attend either the Study Centre or Common Room to await the information.

Remote Learning

As part of my communication for the first strike day, I did request that preparations were made for remote learning to commence. 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 2nd March, 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 (years 10 and 11): If class teachers are in College on the 2nd March, 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.

Where teachers are not leading live lessons on Teams, students should check Class Charts *Homework* and *Announcements* for work that may have been set.

Year 11: students can revise what has been suggested in Week 12 (last week) and Week 11 (this week) in the '12-1 Revision Countdown'.

Year 10: Students, they can always review their learning from recent lessons or where they may have gaps in understanding, highlighted in recent / past assessments. Such independent study is essential for success in GCSE's.

Key stage 5 (years 12 and 13): If class teachers are in College on the 2nd March, they have been asked to send a TEAMS notification and email by 8.30am on the day to indicate they will be available during the timetabled lesson. Staff will then teach face to face lessons.

School Buses

Students in Year 12, 13, and those who are in the vulnerable or critical worker group will be able to use the school bus on this day.

Free School Meals

We are committed to providing Free School Meals to those who are eligible on the 2nd March. The Pupil Premium team have already contacted those on our Free School Meals register to offer a packed lunch order for this day.

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 2nd March only, 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. 15th March
2. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Davis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Davis
Principal