

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware from Miss Litton's email on Monday and the media coverage, the National Education Union (NEU) has called upon its members in schools and sixth form colleges to take part in strike action on Wednesday 1st February. Other strike days are planned for Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. This strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government, not because of any issues at our school.

Lessons:

We do not know exactly how many staff are planning to take strike action on the day as staff do not need to tell us but as we have a significant number of teachers who are NEU members, we anticipate that there will be enough staff supporting the strike to cause significant disruption to the school. Therefore, given that we are unable to guarantee adequate supervision of students who are on site, we have decided for Health and Safety reasons to move all lessons for Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 to remote learning for the day. Students should follow their timetabled day and access their lessons through google classroom independently.

We will, however, welcome into school those students in years 7-11 who have an Educational Health Care Plan, those who are subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan and those students who are Looked After. We will contact these parents to ask if they would like their child to come into school on this day. They will be supervised and supported to complete the same pieces of work that students at home will be completing.

Year 10 internal exams:

Wednesday 1st February is the last day of these exams for Year 10 and so we plan to complete these on the day because we will be able to utilise our team of invigilators as normal. Students will come in for their Maths exam as normal at 8.30 and then they will be able to go home. If students have Spanish/German/French writing and/or Computer Science, the LRC and 216 will be available for them to revise and study in throughout the day.

The canteen will be open for students to purchase any food they require for the day before 8.30 and up to Break 1 only. For students who are eligible for Free School Meals and who are not in school, we will be emailing out a voucher to their parents.

Before each of the other planned strike days, we will canvas staff to see whether or not their decisions remain to strike or not which may give us different options for each of the other days. Given that union members are not required to confirm that they will be taking part in industrial action we, therefore, have to make decisions based on the highest possible number of staff who could strike to ensure that there is adequate supervision.

Strikes, in whatever sector, are far from ideal. Please remember that this is not personal and not just Wildern, it is happening in other local schools and is part of a National decision from

a National Union. Our intention is always to remain open to all students, however on this occasion, no matter how we try and work things, we are unable to do so.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support. This is a complex situation and we have thought very carefully about how to proceed; however the safety of all our students remains the priority.

Best wishes
Mrs Oakley
Headteacher

