

26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may have heard or read in the news, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted in favour of industrial action. They have published a number of different regional and national dates including a national strike on 1st February and a regional strike in the South West on 2nd March. In addition, two further strike dates have been announced for the 15th and 16th March.

Can I apologise in advance for any disruption that this action may cause, and reassure you that we are doing everything to minimise that disruption, especially for those students who will be sitting exams this year. At Budmouth we have a significant number of staff in the NEU and in addition, we are unable to ask members of other unions to cover classes for staff who take industrial action. Staff in the NEU are under no obligation to tell us if they will or will not be in school during these days. In situations like this, safety is our biggest priority and we will only arrange lessons in school where we can ensure a safe ratio of staff to students. As such, staff like myself and other school leaders who volunteer to do so, will be taking cover lessons or providing larger group activities, where pupils are in school but their teacher is out on strike.

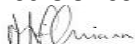
I am now in a position to explain how this strike may affect you and your child. It is worth noting that the following information concerns the industrial action taking place on **Wednesday 1st February only**. On this date we will be open to Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students only. I am sorry if this presents a problem to parents of students in other year groups. In order to make things run smoothly at school we have also made the following changes to the school day:

- Year 11 will have an assembly in Clare Hall during tutor time
- Year 7 will have an assembly in Everdene Hall during tutor time
- There will only be one lunchtime for all students. This will be the first lunch.
- Year 7 will have lunch in Clare Hall, and Year 11 will be in the Hub cafe as usual.
- There will be two periods of lessons after lunch.
- Parents of students in year 8, 9 and 10 in receipt of free school meals (FSM) will receive a supermarket voucher by email on the 31st January.

For students at home, remote lessons in English, Maths and Science will be posted on Google Classrooms. This means that there will be a number of larger tasks set for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 to help them learn at home. In order to complete the tasks, students will need to log into their school Google account and access the whole year group classroom, where the tasks will be posted. Should your child not have access to a device such as a computer, please let us know in advance of the strike and we will do our best to issue one beforehand so that they can access these lessons remotely. Please use this email address if this is the case [kharris@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:kharris@budmouth-aspirations.org). Please use the same email address if your FSM supermarket voucher is not with you on the 31st.

Please let us know if there are any concerns you have about what will happen next Wednesday. From talking to the other Secondary Headteachers in the area it seems that many schools are operating on a reduced year group basis for the day. Once we have experienced one strike day we will then be in a better position to inform you of the potential impact of further industrial action. We will therefore endeavour to continue to communicate with you regarding any future arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Hoffmann  
Principal