

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following last month's strike action, the National Education Union (NEU) have planned further industrial action on Thursday 2nd March. This is envisaged to affect a similar number of teachers to last month's strike. In addition, two further strike dates have been announced for the 15th and 16th March. Should Thursday's strike action be cancelled, we will write to you to explain that school will continue as normal.

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 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.

I am now in a position to explain how this second day of strike action may affect you and your child. It is worth noting that the following information concerns the industrial action taking place on Thursday the 2nd of March. On this date we will be open to Year 7, Year 9, 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:

- Years 8 and 10 will remain at home, where on-line tasks will be provided on Google Classrooms.
- Year 9 will be in school because we have Options Evening that night (starting at 5pm)
- Parents of students in Years 8 and 10 in receipt of free school meals (FSM) will receive a supermarket voucher by email on the 28th February.

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 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. Please email [kharris@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:kharris@budmouth-aspirations.org) if your FSM supermarket voucher is not with you by 4pm on the 28th February.

Please let us know if there are any concerns you have about what will happen next Thursday. 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 this second 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