



George Mitchell School

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22nd February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Planned strike action at George Mitchel School on Thursday 2nd March 2023

We write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

Background

As you are aware, nationally NEU members are taking formal industrial action by participating in a number of strikes. The remaining strikes are planned to take place on:

Thursday 2nd March
Wednesday 15th March
Thursday 16th March

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay.

I wanted to take this opportunity to outline the school's plans during the strike scheduled for **Thursday 2nd March**. Plans for strikes scheduled to take place on the 15th and 16th March will be shared nearer the time, however we advise that childcare arrangements are made in case of full or school partial closure.

What will happen at the school during the strike on Thursday 2nd March?

- The school will be open to the students in Year 11 who are studying in French, Spanish and/or Computer Science who will be sitting Mock exams on this date.
- The school will be closed to all other students (EYFS – YR10) unless they are a vulnerable student. The parents/carers of vulnerable students will be contacted directly by the school, please do not send your child to school otherwise.
- YR11 students studying French, Spanish and/or Computer Science are asked to attend school between 8.45am and 12.00pm. Pupils not studying French and Spanish will be dismissed at 10.45am following their exam. These are the last internal formal exams for these subjects before the terminal summer exams, so the attendance of students studying these courses is vital. Non-attendance will be regarded as an unauthorised absence, unless there are genuine or exceptional reasons for non-attendance, in which case existing policies regarding absence reporting apply.



- Guidance makes it clear that striking teachers are not asked to set work for their classes to complete on the day of strike. However, secondary phase students are asked to access Seneca learning and MyMaths in order to minimise disruption and further learning loss following the pandemic.

If your child is eligible for free school meals then a packed lunch will be available for them to collect from the primary school and secondary school at 12.00pm.

- Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents that as a Trust we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that any closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to all staff at George Mitchell. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Miss Simmons
Head teacher

