



27 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## **National Education Union industrial action Wednesday 1 February 2023 – Hinchingbrooke School Partial Closure**

I wrote to you earlier this week about the planned strike action by the National Education Union (NEU). The first planned strike day is next Wednesday 1 February 2023 (the other planned strike dates are 1 March, 15 March and 16 March).

The purpose of this letter is to give you notice of our current plans for next Wednesday 1 February: we plan to open partially on the day. This means:

1. We plan to open for students in Years 11, 12 and 13
2. School will be closed for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 - these students should work from home on the day\*
3. \*We intend to invite specific students whom we know to be more 'vulnerable' into school. Our pastoral team (Student Support Officers, SEND Team and others) will contact you directly in that case – please do not contact the school to request a place as we will have very limited capacity on the day, and we are therefore obliged to select the students to invite into school

### **Why are these specific year groups expected in school and the other year groups not?**

We expect our staff capacity to be limited on the day, so we have prioritised the Year 11 and Year 13 students because they are closest to taking their formal examinations, and we have also prioritised staying open for the specific more vulnerable students in Years 7 to 10 whom we will invite into school.

We are also bringing in Year 12 students because Sixth Form lessons do not require cover if the regular class teacher is absent, and these students are able to get themselves home unassisted.

### **What will students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who are working from home do on 1 February?**

Teachers who are on strike on 1 February will not be setting work for their students, and nor can we ask their colleagues to set work for the classes of the teachers who are on strike. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 should follow their normal timetable as far as possible (this may not be possible for lessons such as PE and PSHCE). There are up to 3 suggested activities that your child could complete for each lesson on the day, and these are detailed on our website [HERE](#)

For students **not in school**, you are **not** required to contact the school to report an absence or to confirm that your child is working from home next Wednesday.

### **What will happen for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who are in school?**

Teachers who are not on strike or otherwise absent from school will teach their lessons as normal. Students in Year 11 classes whose regular teacher is absent will have their lesson covered (usually by

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a cover supervisor or supply teacher) and they will do work similar to the work being done by students working from home.

For those students coming to school next Wednesday, the buses and food/canteen will run as normal.

**Could these plans change?**

Yes. Our priority is the safety of our students, so we may need to change our plans in the run-up to next Wednesday, or on the day itself, if we have too few staff in school to keep all students in Years 11, 12 and 13 and our more vulnerable students safe. We are hopeful that we will not have to change these plans but in that event that we do, we will let you know, with as much notice as possible.

**What about future planned strike dates?**

We will let you know with as much notice as possible about our plans for the other NEU published strike days on 1 March, 15 March and 16 March. At this stage, we have not made specific plans for those days - obviously, there is the possibility that the Government and the education unions will resolve the current dispute and in that case the strikes on the March strike days might be avoided.

We are very sorry that your child's education will be disrupted next Wednesday 1 February and I wholeheartedly apologise for any inconvenience that the partial closure will cause families - obviously, this is a nationwide dispute, and not a dispute with our school. The plans we have made are based on the information available to us now, and our priority is our students' safety.

School reopens as normal on Thursday 2 February.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Yours faithfully



**Mark Patterson**  
**Principal**