

25 January 2023

Dear families,

Strike Action – Update

As some of you may be aware, one of the teaching unions, the National Education Union (NEU), is planning strike action over the next couple of months. This is a national strike regarding a dispute between unions and the government over teachers' pay.

The NEU has given notice to us that strikes will impact Dixons Cottingley Academy on 1 February, 28 February, 15 March and 16 March.

While we believe discussions are ongoing between unions and the government which could see some strikes cancelled, we have to make plans for **Wednesday 1 February** on the assumption that action will be taken on that date.

Having considered the number of teachers at school who are members of the NEU, I have made the difficult decision to partially close the school on this date. School will remain open for **Year 7 and Year 11 students only** and we will also be inviting a small number of children who need enhanced support and will confirm directly with those families whose children will be able to attend school. **External examinations for students in Year 11 will continue as normal as these exams contribute to their final GCSE grade in the summer.**

We have decided to restrict access in this way to ensure that we can provide an appropriate level of supervision and ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of those in school.

For those children not in school (students in Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10), the academy will be providing a work pack to be completed at home on the day of strike action.

Students in Year 9 that are due to complete internal cycle assessments on Wednesday 1 February, will now sit these on Monday 6 February.

If there are changes to our plan for responding to the proposed industrial action, I will advise you as soon as possible. I will also write to you ahead of the proposed action on 28 February and 15/16 March to confirm the arrangements for those days.

We wanted to communicate as soon as possible so you can plan accordingly. Thank you, as always, for your patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully



Jason Patterson
Principal

