



*Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence*

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

26 January 2023

Dear Parents

## **Re: Planned strike action at The Sir John Colfox Academy on Wednesday 1 February 2023**

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

### **Background**

We have had confirmation from NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike, the first will take place on Wednesday 1 February. Three other dates have been announced and if these go ahead, I will plan based on anticipated disruption.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

### **What is the dispute which has led to the strike about?**

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

### **What will happen at the school during the strike?**

- **The school will be partially open for Y11, 12 and 13**
- **The school will close and move to online learning for Y7, 8, 9 and 10**

### **More specifically**

- **Y11 who have mock exams on that day** (Spanish and Drama in the morning and Geography in the afternoon) will attend school for their exams. Morning exam students will **register in the sports hall at 8.40am**. Once the exam has finished students may go home to work remotely or stay in school to work in a supervised ICT room. Those who have a mock exam in the afternoon should **register in the sports hall at 1.00pm** once their exam is over then they may go home to work remotely or stay in school and work in a supervised ICT room.



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- **Y11 who have not got a mock exam:** All Y11 students can choose to work remotely at home or work in a supervised ICT room during the day. They must register in the main ICT room at 8.40. Work from non-striking teachers will be available via teams at the start of each lesson otherwise a list of resources to use will be available. Students are in the middle of their Mock Exams so they may also wish to use this time to revise for their exams.
- **Y12 and 13: All students should attend both Colfox and Beaminster lessons.** Both sites will be open, and the link bus will be running. Students should attend lessons where teachers are not striking as normal. If their teacher is striking then they should do independent study in either the Colfox or Beaminster study rooms.
- **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will not be in school** and instead will move to remote education. Work from non-striking teachers will be set on Teams. For those striking the school will provide each year group with a list of resources to use for each subject they would have on this day. The students should log onto Teams at the start of each lesson to see if work has been set. If not, they should work on the material provided.

I have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. I appreciate that any closure / partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which I apologise. I hope you understand that we have not taken these decisions lightly and have 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.

Individual Variance between schools:

A joint statement has been prepared by local Secondary Headteachers which can be read below:

*This is our school. There are many like us, but we are unique, and our context has shaped the decisions taken and the provisions made. There can be no single model for opening and therefore, what we provide is likely to vary from that provided by other schools, both local and national. Our decisions have been driven by the needs of our students, staff, and community, they reflect our educational approach and our desire to do what is best for our stakeholders within the confines of the current national situation, our local context, and the flexibility of our resources. We continue to use our funding and available resources to the best of our ability, ensuring that we provide the best education possible to the students in our care.*

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

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Adam Shelley  
Headteacher