



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Industrial Action by NEU – Wednesday 1st February 2023

You will be aware through the national media of the decision of the National Education Union to call a one-day strike on Wednesday 1st February 2023 as part of national industrial action over changes to the pay, pensions and terms and conditions of their members. There are further strikes planned and we will write to you about them once we have more information.

We have worked closely with our union representatives to estimate the numbers of staff who will be involved and at this point it is clear that a significant number of staff will take part in the strike.

The decision to close the school or send students home is never taken lightly, but in this instance, where colleagues have elected to take lawful industrial action, we will have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all students.

We are aware that partial or whole school closures inconvenience parents and carers and so we are writing to give you advance notice of the likely impact of the action on this school.

Our intention is that that **the School will remain open to Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13** on the day in question and that we will provide normal services, wherever possible. However, it is not our intention to ask teachers to cover for union members who are taking part in the strike action.

We also ask that parents and carers who are key workers or whose child is vulnerable let us know so that we can arrange for their child to attend school. Please do so by completing this form <https://forms.office.com/e/MQT8cA3c4g> before the end of the school day on Friday 27th January.

Therefore, **the School will be closed to Years 7 -10 on Wednesday 1st February. Teachers** who are in other unions and not taking industrial action will set work for their classes using Show My Homework. The roll-out of new personal laptops to Years 7, 8 and 9 will be completed in time so that all students have access.

In Year 11 and the Sixth Form normal attendance is expected and students should attend lessons as usual and where a teacher is absent use any free time for private study. Sixth Form

students will be registered in the Sixth Form Centre and Year 11 in the Theatre/Main Hall on arrival and again after lunch rather than attend form registration.

Arrangements for **home-school transport and school lunches** will operate as usual and free lunches will be provided in the usual way for all students who are entitled to them. Those parents who have already used the Wonde system for **provision of free school meals** during the Covid period will receive electronic vouchers as normal. Parents of children who are entitled to free school meals but who have not yet used the Wonde system will receive an activation text message prior to the allocation of the vouchers with instructions.

The Year 9 Parents Evening due to be held on this day will now take place on Thursday 9th February.

I regret any inconvenience caused and hope that this clarification of the situation is of some help in anticipating possible impacts on child care and similar arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J McNamara', written in a cursive style.

James McNamara
Head Teacher