



# THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

*'Learning Together For The Future'*

Head Teacher  
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19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Industrial Action by NEU – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

You will be aware through the national media of the decision of the National Education Union to call an additional two days of strike action on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 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.

**The School will remain open to Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13** on the days in question and we will provide normal services, wherever possible. Year 10 Mock Exams will go ahead as planned.

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 4pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Therefore, **the School will be closed to Years 7 -9 on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.** 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 this term to Years 7, 8 and 9 will ensure that all students have access.

**In Year 10 and 11 and in 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.

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', with a stylized, cursive script.

James McNamara  
Head Teacher