



Friday, 27 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware from our previous letter, the largest teaching union, the NEU, has voted for strike action. This is a dispute with the Government over pay and funding. There are four proposed strike days which will affect our school:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Tuesday 28th February
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

There are a number of our staff who are part of this union. Having taken consideration of the information we have available, we have risk assessed the situation to ensure that we are able to operate a safe learning environment. Therefore, we have taken the decision to open to Year 12 and 13 only, whilst also inviting our vulnerable students from Years 7-11. The Year 11 Poetry Live trip will go ahead as planned, Mrs Wearing, Director of English will be in contact about the arrangements for this. All other students will be expected to work remotely via Teams. There will be no live lessons on this day.

In School	Not in School - Working Remotely
Year 13	Years 7 - 10
Year 12	Year 11 students not attending Poetry Live
Year 11 students attending Poetry Live	
Vulnerable students	

Year Groups in school

All students who are in school should arrive at the normal time of 8:25am. Year 12 and 13 students should go straight to the Sixth Form café, vulnerable students should go straight to the Dining Hall, whilst Year 11 Poetry Live students should go to the Main Hall.

Year 12 and 13 students will follow their usual timetable, and, should a teacher be absent they will work independently in the Sixth Form block.

Vulnerable students will work in classrooms for the majority of the day and the usual expectations will apply.

Executive Headteacher: Miss D Martin | Headteacher: Mr N Skilton

Harrogate Road, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6LX Tel (0113) 250 2330

www.bentonpark.org.uk

E-mail: secretary@bentonpark.net

 @BentonParkSch



Criteria for Vulnerable Learners

Students with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), children who have social workers, looked after children, and vulnerable children known already to the school or where there is multi-agency involvement are classed as vulnerable learners.

School has a confirmed list of students which meet this criteria and school will inform these parents or carers directly in due course that their child meets these criteria. If you do not receive communication about this, your child will need to work at home remotely.

Catering

If a student is in school they will be able to access catering from the dining room. Students entitled to Free School meals who will not be in school on the 1st February will be able to pick up a packed lunch at the end of school on Tuesday 31st January from student reception. Families who wish for this provision must contact secretary@bentonpark.net by 3pm on Monday 30th January.

Remote Learning

Students in Years 7 – 11 will be set work via Teams which will not include live teaching. Paper packs will be given to students who do not have access to online learning. Please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/Jtj73J7bbe> by 3pm on Monday 30th January should you wish to request a paper pack.

These arrangements are subject to change and staffing issues that sit outside of the strike action which may also impact our ability to deliver these plans. Please be assured that we will do everything reasonably possible to keep the school open, provided that we are satisfied we have enough staff in school to comply with our legal obligations and duty of care for our students.

If we feel this is not possible and we need to consider closing the school to more students, then we shall try and provide you with as much notice as possible of this decision.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Nicholas Skilton

Headteacher

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