



Friday, 24 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

- 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. As we have previously communicated, it is our intention to bring as many students into school as possible on Tuesday 28th February, however, following subsequent updates about numbers of staff striking, we have had to take the difficult decision that Year 9 students will also remain at home and work remotely.

For Tuesday 28th February, the school will be open to Years 7, 11, 12 and 13. The Year 11 and 13 examinations and the Year 10 Media Trip will go ahead as planned, and students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will be expected to work remotely via Teams. There will be no live lessons on this day for these year groups, and there will be no extracurricular activities taking place in school.

In School	Not in School - Working Remotely
Year 13	Year 10
Year 12	Year 9
Year 11	Year 8
Year 7	

Year Groups in school

All students in Years 7 and 11 who are in school should arrive at the normal time of 8:25am and should line up in their form groups in the courtyard.

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

Vulnerable students who are in school 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

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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 28th February will be able to pick up a packed lunch at the end of school on Monday 27th February from student reception. Families who wish for this provision must contact secretary@bentonpark.net by 9.00am on Monday 27th February.

Remote Learning

Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 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 9.00am on Monday 27th February, 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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