



Ringwood School

Dear Parents/Carers

Strike Action

You will have heard much in the press that teaching members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted for strike action. There are scheduled to be four days of strike action, the first of which is scheduled for **1 February 2023**. The others are 2nd March; 15th and 16th March.

As a school we are required to assess whether we can safely open if a number of staff are not present. As **51%** of our teaching staff are in the NEU, and have been asked to take action by their union, we have had to work on this as a potential number of colleagues who will not be in on 1st February. Colleagues are not required to give pre-warning of their decision to strike. Looking this potential absence level we have risk assessed and concluded that we are unable to safely cover lessons with that number of staff out. **Therefore we need to limit on site attendance on 1st February to vulnerable children and Yr13 students sitting mock exams. All other students will receive their learning remotely on that day. All staff at work will be delivering live lessons from school via Teams.**

Vulnerable children are defined as those with an EHCP; those currently open to social care; young carers and LAC/PLAC and adopted students. We will be contacting parents and carers of these students by email this week to ask you to confirm if you want a space for your child in the emergency in school provision on 1st February.

We will be supporting Yr7 and 8 through the week to get them ready to learn remotely as they were not in our school through the long periods of remote learning in 2020 and 2021.

This first day of strike action is scheduled during Year 13 exams week. Yr 13 exams will be held as normal on 1st February. All other Yr13 students remain on study leave.

More information will be sent regarding remote learning in the week commencing 30th January.

Please note that the Year 11 Invite Only Parents' Evening will now take place on Tuesday 31st January, rather than Wednesday 1st February.

There are a number of teaching unions and so far, only the National Education Union have voted to strike. Other unions are proposing to re-ballot and we are keeping a close eye on the outcomes of their consultations. On a national level, negotiations are taking place with the government and the dispute may be resolved in time to avert strike action. If this is the case then 1st February will be a normal school day. If strike action does go ahead we will reassess our response after each strike day. The arrangement for subsequent strike days may be different from 1st February following our assessment.

Yours sincerely,
Leanne Symonds
Headteacher