

Principal: Mrs Ruth Craven

Email: mail@copleyacademy.org.uk

Web: copley.greatacademies.co.uk

26 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Strike Action – Wednesday 1st February 2023

I hope this letter finds you well.

You are probably aware from the national press that members of the National Education Union (NEU) are intending to take industrial strike action on Wednesday 1st February 2023. The action is not against the school but is part of national union action concerning the funding levels for schools, changes to the pay, pensions and conditions of their members, teacher recruitment and retention and a range of other national working condition related issues.

There is no requirement on trade unions to inform us of exactly which members of staff will take action, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members to strike. My main concern is the safety and supervision of our students and after carrying out a risk assessment, it is highly likely that we will not have enough staff in school to support the vast majority of students being on site. Therefore, I am sorry to inform you that there will not be sufficient staff in school that day for me to provide lessons for all students.

In attempting to balance the needs of our examinations and the demands of supporting our youngest and our most vulnerable young people, **I have prioritised keeping the school open for Year 11 students, Year 7 students and those students who are most vulnerable.** Where their lessons are affected by the absence of a teacher, Year 11 and Year 7 students will be expected to study privately within their classrooms under the supervision of additional staff. Families of students who may have education health care plans, or are judged as particularly vulnerable, will be contacted separately to establish our arrangements for their care and education.

We are unable to cover in-school the lessons of any other year groups and so I will therefore have to **close the school for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 on Wednesday 1st February 2023.** I would therefore advise you at this stage to make alternative arrangements for your child or children on that day. Staff who are in school, and for whom remote learning may continue, will set on-line learning for students to log on to via TEAMS or Classcharts. For those lessons where staff are not available to set on-line learning, students should continue to study from the extensive range of on-line learning packages that we have available. Students should use the day to complete homework and/or access a number of links referred to in their Teams areas for further study.


I do regret having to make this decision. We must all hope that the issues that have prompted this industrial action are resolved as soon as possible. If the situation changes before Wednesday 1st February I will be in touch as promptly as possible.

We will contact the parent/carers of students who are entitled to free school meals to outline the arrangements for requesting and collecting a free school meal for your child.

If you have any questions or concerns about the alternative arrangements outlined above, please contact Mr J Bond (Operations Manager), in the first instance by emailing, mail@copleyacademy.org.uk.

As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruth Craven". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'C'.

Ruth Craven
Principal