

Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Planned strike action at Chelsea Academy on Wednesday 1st February

In my communication last Friday I said I would update you on the progress of our contingency planning for the forthcoming strike action. I think it is helpful to remind you that the strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay and not about working conditions or any other dispute with the Leadership or governance of the Academy. My staff who are striking have not taken the decision to do so lightly.

What will happen at the Academy during the strike?

The Academy will only be open for:

- All Year 11 students
- Some Year 13 students
- Students identified by the Pastoral Team, including those with EHCPs
- All other students should remain at home and access online learning through google classroom
- If you are a parent of a student in Y7-10 eligible for Free School Meals, you will receive a voucher by email
- Y11, 13 and identified students should arrive at **9.30am** and the day will run through to **2.35pm** (normal finish time on Wednesdays). Break and lunch will be available as normal

The arrangements for Y13 are slightly different and Mrs. Holgate will be in contact with Y13 students about this.

Please note teachers who are striking are not required to set cover, nor should non striking colleagues be asked to set cover work or lessons on their behalf. 80% of teachers at Chelsea Academy are members of the NEU, nearly all of whom I expect to be striking. Whilst I am permitted to ask staff if they are striking, the NEU have advised their members not to give this information to the headteacher.

I have been informed that some staff will form a picket line outside the front of the Academy and also at the Student Entrance. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents that as a Trust we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day. We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line.

I fully appreciate that this partial closure may be disruptive to you, and I do apologise. We hope that you understand why we have made the decision to partially close the Academy. As I wrote last week, the NEU has declared 3 further strike dates on 2nd March, 15th and 16th March. I will be writing to you after half term to confirm arrangements for these days, should the strikes go ahead.

Your child's education is important to *all* staff at Chelsea Academy especially after the disruption of the past 3 years. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely



Mariella Ardron

Principal