

Thursday 23rd February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Planned strike action at Chelsea Academy on Thursday 2nd March**

I hope you had a pleasant half term break?

Further to my earlier communications I am updating you on the arrangements for the next planned NEU strike day. There are some changes from the earlier strike day in February. Once again may I 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 to complete a mock examination. Students should arrive as normal at the student entrance at 9.30am in either uniform or Academy PE kit
- A very small number of identified students
- All other students should remain at home and access online learning through google classroom. **If your child's teacher is not taking strike action there will be an online lesson to access. Your child should log on a few minutes before the start of each lesson to see whether the teacher is online. Otherwise there will be resources uploaded as was the case for the February strike day**
- There will not be coaching time (8.40-9am). Therefore the first lesson will start at 9am
- If you are a parent of a student in Y7-11 eligible for Free School Meals, you will receive a voucher by email

Mrs. Holgate has communicated separately with the Sixth Form about arrangements for students in Y12 and 13

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. 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. Therefore it is impossible for me to say which classes will have work set until the 2nd March.

I believe some staff may 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. 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. Should the two further planned strikes go ahead on 15th & 16th March I will be writing with the arrangements for these days, which are likely to be the same as for the 2nd March.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely



Mariella Ardron

Principal