



27 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to my communication in last week's e-Bulletin, I am writing to confirm the arrangements for the first day of strike action, which is due to take place on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

As I mentioned last week, the dispute is not directed against the school itself, but is part of national, industrial action organised by the National Education Union (NEU).

Schools are likely to be impacted to varying degrees depending on the make-up of union membership and the number of NEU members taking action in their own institution. Union members are not required to share their intention to strike in advance and therefore the plans put in place need to accommodate the health and safety of the school community on notified strike days.

Whilst not every teacher at Ashlyns is a member of the NEU, there are a significant number and our risk assessment indicates that we will be unable to provide a safe level of supervision for all students.

Therefore, on 1 February 2023, only students in the following year groups should attend school:

- Year 13 (lessons only)
- Year 12 (lessons only)
- Year 7

For these year groups, there are also likely to be periods of the day when students' normal subject teachers are not available and independent, on site, study will be coordinated.

All other students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should study from home and work independently as outlined below:

- Students should first check their Google Classroom for independent tasks and then use the attached document ([linked here](#)) to support study in the relevant subject areas. Please note, those members of staff taking strike action will not be setting work, as advised by their union.

In addition, we will contact the parents/carers of our most vulnerable students directly to make arrangements regarding additional support, which we will put in place. Parents/carers who are critical workers and work for the NHS, emergency services or in education (and who are unable to make alternative arrangements for their children) should contact the school using [this form](#) so that we can consider how best to support these families. Please note, there may be limited capacity to accommodate these students on site.

Any students in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to collect a lunch parcel on Tuesday 31 January. Further information for these students will be provided.

Coming to a decision to restrict access to any year group is never easy. However, my main concern must be the health and safety of our students and our capacity to supervise them accordingly.

I know that making alternative arrangements for your child may be difficult; should the situation regarding industrial action change between now and Wednesday we will email you and place details on our website. I will, of course, be in touch regarding the additional planned strike days due to take place later this term on 1, 15 and 16 March 2023.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Shapland
Headteacher