



23 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Industrial Action 01 March 2023

Further to my [letter on 27 January 2023](#), I am writing to update you on arrangements regarding the next planned date for industrial action, due to take place on 01 March 2023.

You will probably be aware that, despite ongoing contact between teachers' unions and representatives from the government, this next stage of the proposed strike action by members of the NEU remains set to go ahead. As I have outlined before, the dispute is not directed against the school itself, but is part of national, industrial action organised by the National Education Union (NEU). Unfortunately, this will, of course, have an impact on the school and the level of provision we can operate on the day.

You will remember from my last letter that members of the union are not required to share their intention in advance of the dates. This uncertainty makes planning a challenge. It also remains the case that members of other unions who are not involved in the strike action cannot be directed to cover for these members of staff.

Based on my knowledge of the total number of NEU members at Ashlyns, along with information regarding the attendance of staff during the previous round of action, I have undertaken a risk assessment to establish how many students can safely be accommodated and which year groups are likely to be most affected.

Therefore, on Wednesday 01 March only students in the following year groups should attend school:

- Year 13 (lessons only)
- Year 12 (lessons only)
- Year 7 (All Year 7 students should bring their PE kit)

For Year 7, 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 and supervised. It is expected that Year 12 and Year 13 can study independently where required.

Whilst we are unable to accommodate teaching for Year 11 students, should parents wish for students to be in school, we will look to provide an opportunity for supervised independent study in the main hall. If you would like your child to access this, please [complete this form](#).

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.

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.

All other students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should study from home and work independently. Please note, those members of staff taking strike action will not be setting work, as advised by their union, but tasks will be provided centrally for all students directly through their Google Classroom.

Any students in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a Tesco voucher via email on Tuesday 28 February. (This will be instead of a pre-packed lunch). Further information for these students will be provided.

As I have previously outlined, 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 and that this dispute means they will experience disruption to their education; should the situation regarding industrial action change between now and Wednesday 01 March, we will be in touch and place details on our website.

I will, of course, contact you regarding the additional planned strike days due to take place later this term on 15 and 16 March 2023, if a satisfactory resolution between the union and the government has not been reached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher