

30th January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Planned strike action at Melton Vale Sixth Form College on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

We write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

Background

We have had confirmation from NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

What is the dispute which has led to the strike about

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

What will happen at the school during the strike?

Due to the percentage of teachers who are a member of NEU and are electing to support strike action, the college will only be partially open Wednesday 1st February 2023. Normally teaching will resume for all students on Thursday 2nd February.

Please see below the arrangements for each year group for Wednesday 1st only.

- Year 13
 - Year 13 will be expected to attend college on Wednesday, with the normal attendance monitoring arrangements in place.
 - The college will remain open for Year 13 with all lessons continuing as normal, where possible. This is with the exception of lessons delivered by striking staff. We will not know officially the impact of this until 9am on Wednesday. Shortly after this time a message will go out to all Year 13 students detailing the lessons that are going ahead and which have been supplemented with online learning, where possible. Unfortunately, due to the size of our setting we are unable to facilitate internal in-person cover arrangements for this day.
 - The college will be open at the normal opening and closing times.
 - Students are welcome, as normal, to be in the building for independent study during the normal opening hours.
 - The canteen will be open as normal for food and refreshments.

- Year 12 and FAD students
 - Year 12 and FAD students will not be required to attend college on Wednesday and will have their attendance coded as such.
 - All Year 12 and FAD lessons will be moved online and uploaded onto MSTEams, where possible, with teachers providing work to be completed during the normal study time from home.
 - The building will remain open for Year 12 and FAD students however, should they wish to use it as a quiet study space as an alternative to home. It is imperative students sign-in upon arrival and out when leaving should they wish to utilise the facilities.
 - For students with a special educational need, we encourage attendance on this day. Teaching assistants are not participating in strike action and are therefore available to support independent study / facilitate normal scheduled 1:1 support session where required.
 - For students who would normally receive wellbeing support on a Wednesday, this will go ahead as planned.

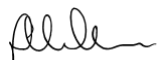
Whilst it is not currently indicated as a planned action, some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity 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. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that any closure / partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Melton Vale. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Leah Miller
Acting Headteacher