



24 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Industrial Action Update

I am writing to you with an update on the arrangements for the industrial action by the National Education Union on 27 April and 2 May 2023.

The strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the union and the government over teachers' pay and school funding and not because of any issues at our school.

As a result of the information I have, I am able to keep the school open to Years 11 and 13 only on these days, so please do not send your child into school unless they are in these year groups. School buses will run as normal and the detail regarding the provision for Year 13 will be sent out in due course from the sixth form team.

Year 11

All Year 11 students should arrive at school by 8.25am for an assembly in the South Hall. As I will not know how many staff will be in school until the morning, I am unable to say how many face to face lessons each student will have. It is therefore possible for students to have a fully normal day or very few lessons. We will however, put together a programme of lessons that each student will have throughout the two days based upon staff availability.

When students do not have a lesson, they will be supervised by members of the Senior Leadership team to do private study. We will have a bank of general revision resources for students to use but please can you make sure your child brings plenty of their own work they can use as it will be bespoke to them.

Remote Learning

Staff that are not striking will deliver live lessons to the rest of the school so students should log on to Microsoft Teams at the start of their lesson and join as normal. Please can all students ensure they have log in details in advance of Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May.

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As previously mentioned, NEU members are under no obligation to inform schools whether or not they are taking industrial action. Consequently, it means that we will not know our exact staffing until the day. Staff that are striking are not required to deliver lessons or prepare work for their groups on that day. As I am unaware of which staff are striking, I am not able to inform you of which live lessons are taking place or not. Therefore, your child will need to log on to all lessons to see if their lesson is taking place.

To be able to access the live lessons students need to follow the steps below:

- On any device which allows the use of Apps, students should download the Microsoft Teams App.
- Once this is downloaded students should log in using their St Martin's email address and password, students will then be on the homepage.
- At the time the lesson should normally commence they will be notified that the teacher is now online and ready to begin.
- For devices that do not have the ability to download the Microsoft Teams App, students should search "Microsoft Teams" where a web version of the software is available.
- Students should then log in using their St Martin's email address and password.
- Any problems please contact Mr Berry at pberry@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

Year 10 PPEs

The Year 10 PPEs that were due on Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May will be moved to alternative dates which can be viewed by the examinations timetable on Insight.

Trips

Please be advised that the Year 9 and Year 12 theatres trips will run in the evening on Thursday 27 April as planned.

We are working closely with our staff union representative to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if there are any changes. I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child, and that they will experience some changes to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

Yours sincerely



Ian Smyrk
Headteacher