

21 April 2023

Dear parent/carers

In brief

The next two days of proposed teacher industrial action (strike) are on Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May.

The school site will be closed to students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on both days. Year 11 students are expected to attend, this is not optional.

Year 9 are expected to take part in 'Take your child to work day' as planned on Thursday 27 April.

Students in Year 7 - 10 are expected to log in to Google Classroom each lesson.

Please see paragraph below re NHS and emergency service workers.

The detail

The next proposed days of industrial action by teachers in the National Education Union (NEU) are Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May.

For students in Years 7, 8, and 10 online learning will be provided on both days wherever possible via Google Classroom, but please be aware that staff taking part in industrial action cannot be compelled to set work, although some may choose to do so. Year 10 students all have access to online learning platforms including Tassomai, GCSE Pod, Sparx and Seneca. Students already have their logins and can sign in through Google. Year 7 and 8 can access BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy. Accessing this remote learning is not optional. It is expected and attendance will be monitored.

Students in Year 9 have their 'Take your child to work day' on Thursday 27 April. This will still go ahead as planned. Any Year 9 students who are not taking part can access BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy. On Tuesday 2 May online learning will be provided as before and as detailed above for Year 7, 8 and 10. Accessing this remote learning is not optional. It is expected and attendance will be monitored.

Year 11 students are expected to attend school, the site is open as normal to them. Year 11 students will have normal lessons if their teacher is not taking strike action. If they are on strike then the students will be based in ICT suites, where they can access their online learning. This is a compulsory day for Year 11 so any student not attending school on this day will be marked as unauthorised, if they are not absent due to illness. Food will be available to Year 11 students at break and at lunchtime in the canteen.

The guidance has been updated since the last strike days. Although we will be unable to offer places to all critical worker's children, we are happy to discuss the circumstances of children of NHS staff and other emergency services. The number of staff with the potential to strike means that Health and Safety has to be our priority, so we ask that this is only taken up if the household does not have any other form of supervision or support. Therefore if you feel that it is essential that your child comes to school, please contact Donna Keogh: donna.keogh@iwef.org.uk.

If your child is in Years 7 - 10 and is entitled to free school meals, and you would like to apply for a voucher for the days that they are not in school, then please contact Donna Keogh: donna.keogh@iwef.org.uk.

As before, the action is being taken because of a national dispute between the unions and the Government, not because of any issues at our site. We ask that all members of the community respect the individual's right to take part in the industrial action, which is, as I mentioned previously, because of a national dispute between the unions and the Government, not because of any issues within the Federation. Because we cannot know until the day of the strike which teachers are or are not on strike it is not possible to plan ahead any more than we have done here.

My apologies for the inconvenience this causes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPB', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Parr-Burman
Executive Headteacher
Isle of Wight Education Federation