



Northampton School for Boys

An independent Academy for the Town and County



24 April 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Strike action by members of the National Education Union - Thursday, April 27th / Tuesday, May 2nd - Impact on NSB

We are writing regarding forthcoming national strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. The purpose of this letter is to explain the likely impact for NSB of the planned strikes on Thursday, April 27th and Tuesday, May 2nd.

Teachers involved in the strike action will not teach their classes or undertake any other duties on a strike day. Therefore, one of the key issues for the school is whether there are likely to be sufficient staff available for the school to safely remain open, or partially open, during strike days. We have aimed to keep NSB open to as many students as possible, but due to the anticipated number of teachers striking, it will not be possible to keep the school open to all year groups. In line with National Guidance from the Department for Education and in consideration of the proximity of their Public Examinations, Year 11 and 13 have not been considered for part closure purposes. Potential teacher absence for Year 12 classes does not impact on whole school planning for Strike Days as Sixth Form classes do not need to be covered if the teacher is absent (independent work can be set in Sixth Form Study Areas) - this is not the case where teachers are absent for Lower School classes in Years 7-11 where lessons are covered.

The Governing Body have today ratified the decision that the school will be partially closed on Thursday April 27th and Tuesday, May 2nd as follows:

Thursday, April 27th

Open to students in Years 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and

Closed to students in Years 7 and 10

Tuesday, May 2nd

Open to students in Years 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 and

Closed to students in Years 8 and 9

The school will also be open to students in Years 7/10 on Thursday and Years 8/9 on Tuesday who are vulnerable or who are the children of critical workers. National definitions of these two categories can be found via this [link](#) on pages 21-23. Please contact Deputy Headteacher, Mr Kneeshaw at the school if your son is in Year 7, 8, 9 or 10 and you feel that he falls into either of these categories - mkneeshaw@nsb.northants.sch.uk

On the strike days, remote learning will be set for relevant year groups through the school's VLE and Microsoft Teams, however, please note that teachers who are on strike will not prepare or set work for students on strike days. Assistant Headteacher, Mr Rodger will write to all parents / carers of students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 before Thursday to remind parents / carers how the remote learning provision will work for these four year groups. There may also be amendments to the curriculum for the students in school on the strike days depending on the finalised numbers of teachers striking - schools will not be fully aware of how many teachers are striking until the morning of the strike days. Year 10 examinations will not be affected on Tuesday, May 2nd.

Parents and carers should be aware that the planning leading up to a strike can be subject to fast changing dynamics and we will alert parents / carers early next week, if we need to increase the number of year groups / groups of students undertaking remote learning on Thursday / Tuesday. We will also give parents / carers immediate notice if the strike days are called off due to resolution between the Government and the Teaching Unions.

Clearly this is a difficult situation nationally, however, we would ask you to be understanding as the decision to strike is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Headmaster Mr R Bernard ma

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