

27 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Strike Action – Thursday 2 March 2023

I hope you had a restful half-term holiday and that the return to Term 4 has been a successful one.

As the NEU and the government have not yet reached an agreement in their pay dispute, the next day of planned strike action which I shared with you in my last letter is now expected to take place. The dates I shared with you in my last letter remain unchanged, meaning the next day of strike action will be Thursday 2 March 2023, and I am writing to inform you of our plan for that day.

The Academy has assessed the safety of students and staff inside school based on the staff that we have available.

Kings will be open to students in Years 11 and 13 and we expect students in these year groups to attend as normal. Students will follow their normal timetable unless directed otherwise on the day. To ensure this time is productive for Year 11 students, we will be running additional revision and exam preparation sessions. Most Year 13 lessons will run as normal, but if there is any disruption to lessons, students will continue to have access to the Sixth Form Centre facilities for independent study to revise for their upcoming PPEs.

Kings will be closed on Thursday 2 March 2023 for students in Years 9, 10 and 12. Students will be asked to stay at home.

We will be providing work for students to complete at home during the day. Details will be posted on ClassCharts as homework or as an announcement. We would highly recommend that all students check their ClassCharts account prior to 9am on Thursday 2 March 2023 for details of each task.

We will provide learning resources across all our core subject areas for Years 9 and 10. Maths will set work via Hegerty Maths, English will be issuing a creative writing task, Science will be setting tasks via Educake and RE will issue some online lesson resources to enhance knowledge of a current curriculum area. Year 12 students will be signposted to appropriate resources on Firefly.

Staff that are not striking may wish to set specific tasks. These will be set via ClassCharts. In some cases, live lessons may be completed via Microsoft Teams. Your child will also be able to access this information via ClassCharts.

Students entitled to Free School Meals will be issued with vouchers as they are during school holidays.

There will be on-site provision for students with Education Health Care Plans, or where students have specific vulnerabilities. This will be staffed by non-teaching colleagues. We will contact these students and their families separately to provide further details.

If you are a critical worker and unable to make alternative childcare arrangements for the day, we may be able to offer a limited number of places to students in Years 9 and 10. Please could you email office@kovessex.co.uk to request a place. Responses must be received by 9am on Wednesday 1 March 2023, to allow us time to plan for this provision. You will be contacted by email to confirm whether a place can be offered.

School transport will run as normal on Thursday 2 March to enable students listed above to access the site.

We are very sorry for the inevitable inconvenience and disruption that this industrial action may cause. We are doing our best to prioritise on-site education for those students in exam years, and those students with statutory provision according to their additional needs.

It is important that we retain the cohesiveness of our school community during these potentially fractious times and to continue to treat each other with respect. We will continue to monitor the arrangements in place and make modifications where possible to improve support for students wherever possible. I will write to you again to confirm our plans for the future days of planned industrial action.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

David Wiltshire
Headteacher