



18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## NEU Strike Action

I am writing to you to in relation to planned industrial action that is likely to affect our college over the coming weeks.

On Monday, the largest national trades union for teachers and non-teaching support staff, the National Education Union (NEU), announced that they had secured the necessary support in a ballot for industrial action. This is a national dispute with the government, not against our college. The dispute centres around pay and school funding.

Our priority will be to minimise any impact on the progress and well-being of children and young people. The college and Meridian Trust take no collective position on the validity of the action being taken by the NEU. Please may I ask that you do not discuss the strike with members of staff. I have asked that staff similarly avoid discussing their personal views on the action with parents, carers, and students.

We are not always aware of precisely how many employees intend to join strike action. Individuals are not under any obligation to notify us in advance. That can make predicting the impact of action difficult. We hope to be able to remain open as much as possible during the strike, but we are aware that a number of our staff are members of the NEU and that, consequently, some disruption is likely on the following planned dates:

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The first consideration will be ensuring that we have sufficient staffing to maintain the safety of children on site. If we find that is not something we can guarantee we will seek to prioritise support and teaching for students preparing for summer examinations, and those who are most vulnerable.

We will write to you as soon as possible to communicate arrangements for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 and will keep forward dates under review. Many thanks for your understanding.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warburton  
Principal