



26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

## **NEU Strike Action – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

You will be aware the National Education Union (NEU) announced a further two days of strike action on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July. This is because no settlement has yet been reached in the dispute between the government and the NEU.

We are hugely grateful for your understanding with the arrangements made for the previous strike dates. To give you as much notice as possible, I am writing to set out our planned arrangements for July, which is always a busy month for events in the school calendar.

A significant number of our staff are members of the NEU. Members are not obliged to tell us whether they intend to take strike action, so we can only plan based on our best estimates of the impact on staffing. We have risk-assessed these estimates against the safe running of the school and supervision of the children for each day. Whilst we do have the benefit of not have Year 10 (work experience) or Year 11 and 13 students in college, we are not able to redeploy these teachers as that would break the conditions of the strike.

On the previous strike dates this year, we have tried to prioritise those year groups with imminent examinations or assessments and factor in the planned disruption of striking colleagues of classes taking place and the effect on a specific year group. These new dates coincide with several planned events at a very busy point in the school calendar; in making our decisions this time we have tried to balance the impact on planned events alongside the learning time already lost to strike action for year groups.

We have taken the decision to close school to the following year groups on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July:

- Year 7
- Year 9

This means we will remain open for students in Year 8 and Year 12. Year 10 students should continue with their work experience placements.

We have taken the decision to close school to the following year groups on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July:

- Year 7
- Year 8

This means we will remain open for students in Year 9 and Year 12. Year 10 students should continue with their final day of work experience. Year 10 students taking part in the Dorset walk should attend the group departure as normal on Thursday – the trip is correctly staffed and not impacted by strike absence.

**Planned Events/Trips** - The Meridian trust showcase event will still take place. Students who are involved in this should follow their existing instructions but, if you have any further questions, please contact:

[jnewsome@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:jnewsome@elycollege.co.uk)

The Dorset walk will also still take place as planned.

**Catering and Transport** - The school canteen will run as normal. Students who are not attending school but are eligible and require a free school meal will be able to come and collect a meal from college by arrangement. Please can you contact Mr Grezio: [mgrezio@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:mgrezio@elycollege.co.uk) if you want to take up this offer.

School transport will run as normal. There is no expectation that parents/carers of students not expected in college to contact the school to confirm 'virtual' attendance, or that they are working from home.

**Remote Learning** - We ask that students use the time at home to engage in remote learning or participation in their PLEDGES. Striking colleagues are unable to set cover work so we encourage students to use their time to complete SPARX, Tassomai or other outstanding pieces of homework. We have placed a range of resources within our website at the following location: <https://www.elycollege.com/remoteteaching>

**Future dates** - We do not expect there to be any further dates this academic year, but I am afraid the potential does remain for further action in the Autumn term. It remains possible that the dispute will be settled in time to avoid this latest action, but it is sensible to plan on the assumption it will go ahead.

As we have outlined previously, the school 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 directly with children, parents, and carers. However, we will take steps to explain in a balanced way to students what strike action means, and what the dispute that is causing this disruption is all about.

Many thanks for your continued understanding. I am sure we all look forward to a satisfactory resolution to this dispute and a return to normal provision.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton  
Principal