



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

Industrial Action

You may be aware from media coverage that National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action, which will take place on **Wednesday 1st February (next week), Wednesday 1st March, Thursday 15th March and Friday 16th March** which will have an impact on schools in the East Midlands. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over pay. As I have previously stated, the anticipated disruption is not as simple as taking into consideration which members of our teaching staff decide to go onto strike, as many of our teachers and support staff will also be impacted themselves due to school closures that affect their own children. This is an invidious situation for both parents and the school.

I am writing to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for **Wednesday 1st February**. We have not yet planned a response on the **other anticipated strike days** because we hope to learn from the first strike and the amount of disruption caused on this day.

Wednesday 1st February: School Open to Year 11 and 13 Only

The school will be open to **Year 11 students** who will follow their **timetabled lessons**. On arrival, Year 11 will report to Sixteen07 for assembly. We will make available the **Sixth Form Centre** for students in **Year 13** who will use this space for independent study, revision, and coursework and there will be a **limited number of Year 13 lessons**. On arrival, Year 13 should report to the Sixth Form Centre for registration and in the afternoon, we will provide the Sixth Form Centre for independent study, and students will be able to participate in games should they so wish. **We have prioritised both Year 11 and 13 groups due to national examinations.**

In addition, we will make provision in school for **all students** with **Education Health and Care Plans, those eligible for Free School Meals** and those whom our **Safeguarding Team** have identified to attend school so that they can complete online work in school, with support.

We will set work for **all other year groups** on Satchel One with the expectation that this work will be completed at home. Whilst we have successfully delivered education in this scenario before, we cannot provide live, remote lessons because we will not have capacity for this provision based on anticipated disruption.

Further information

- Students who attend school will be expected to follow the normal times of the school day
- Students will be able to access our catering services at both break and lunchtime, as normal
- There will be no extra-curricular classes offered on this day to reflect limited capacity
- School buses will be provided as usual

I am sorry if you must make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand your inevitable frustration and I share it. We are working closely with our staff union representative to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you if arrangements change further. However difficult, we must all continue to work together; no one in our community will gain from division and we must all hope for a national resolution to this dispute so that our students do not face further disruption.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal