



24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Industrial Action 1st March 2023

Following on from my recent communications, I would like to clarify the arrangements for the proposed upcoming strike day, **Wednesday 1st March 2023**.

As previously discussed, these ongoing strikes are being called by the National Education Union (NEU), the biggest teaching union in England. The action being taken is not just about pay but in response to teacher shortages, as a result of recruitment and retention issues across the profession, and funding issues. A significant proportion of my teaching staff are members of the NEU. When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on a strike day.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon me to again consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike. To determine whether the school can remain fully or partially open, I need to consider the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

It is also important to note there are many other restrictive factors when it comes to being able to plan for such a day and when such a significant number of teaching staff will not be operational. Firstly, school leaders cannot ask teaching staff who are striking to prepare work, be it to be completed in the classroom or at home. Secondly, school leaders are not able to direct other non-striking teaching staff to cover the lessons or set work for colleagues who are taking industrial action. Therefore, I will be unable to plan to run the school's operation fully and will have to restrict student numbers on the school site. This is because of safeguarding requirements and a lack of adequate planned supervision of the students. Obviously, should the strike be called off then the school will be operational as normal and this will be communicated.

The planned arrangements for the day will be as follows:

• **Year 11** - Students will attend the school site for their Pre Public Examinations (PPEs) - please note staggered arrival times:

- **9:40am - Only students sitting the Religious Studies and Computer Science exams should arrive at 9:40am for a 10:00am start of the exams. These students will then have the opportunity to have lunch in the canteen before they start their Maths exam (12:00pm – 1:00pm)**





- **12:45pm - All other Year 11's will arrive at 12:45pm for a 1:00pm start of the Maths exam.**
- Students should arrive by the gate at the sports side and follow instructions sent to them via the Exams Officer.

Year 13 - PPEs will run as normal:

- Media & Computer Science Students must enter via the front entrance at Main Reception at **8:40am** to be ready for their exam at 9:00am.
- Business A Level & Sociology Students must enter via the front entrance at Main Reception at **12:40pm** to be ready for their exam at 1:00pm.

If students are sitting an exam in **both** the AM and PM exam session, students are welcome to stay in the Brook Library to revise. Students should be mindful that the canteen will be open only between **12:00pm – 1:00pm**, so therefore students will need to bring their own lunch if they are unable to access the canteen at this time.

The study centre is open if they do not have access to an appropriate study space at home to complete their exam work. Please let Mrs Sellears know in advance if your child needs this provision (nsellears@rodingvalley.net)

- Children with an **EHCP**, or **children with a social worker**, will be invited into school as before.
- **Free School Meals** (FSM) - if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and you would like them to receive a packed lunch for the day of the strike, then they are able to collect prepared food from our school canteen at the end of the school day on Tuesday 28th February.
- **Devices** - If your child is struggling to access a device to access online work, please contact plarkin@rodingvalley.net ASAP- we will try and support you with this.

All other students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 should not attend the school site.

Students should check their Google classrooms and complete any home learning assignments/material set. Can I remind all parents of the vast selection of online learning platforms that their child has access to:

- **KS3 (Yr7-9)** - Accelerated reader quizzes, Bedrock vocabulary builder, Hegarty Maths quizzes, videos & worksheets, SENECA, independent reading, extended reading lists RVHS revision microsites. Reading lists are on the school website.
- **KS4/5 (Yr10-13)** - Bedrock vocabulary builder, Snap Revise, (Science) Hegarty Maths, SENECA, Extended reading lists, Revision tasks recently set via the study skills days from the RVHS Revision Microsites to support exam preparation. All our revision microsites for GCSE/ A level are available on the school website or [by clicking this link](#). This includes the lists for Personalised Checklists (PLCs) which the students have been shown how to link with their planned revision tasks.



Aspiration
Respect
Endeavour

Alderton Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3JA
t: 020 8508 1173 e: office@rodingvalley.net
www.rodingvalley.net
Headteacher: Mrs S Jenner
Chief Executive Officer: Mr P Banks



Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

Clearly, this is a difficult situation and I appreciate the concerns of parents and carers. However, I would ask you to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

The NEU has posted a document for parents and carers that explains their reasons for taking strike action. It can be found [here](#) if you wish to read it. As it stands there are two more strike days planned:

- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

Arrangements for these will be communicated closer to the time. Let us hope for more constructive discussions can be held between the professional associations and the Government so as to ensure further decisions like this one do not have to be taken in the future.

If there are any changes to these arrangements, I will contact you immediately.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sharon Jenner
Headteacher

