



Tuesday 10th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your support today as we, again, enter this period of strike action at Connaught which I had hoped was over for us as a school. I will keep this message brief. We continue to work under very stringent requirements that we are told we must meet in order for the school to be open. Despite several union negotiation meetings over long periods, over protracted months of negotiations, which the school is always flexible in meeting, we always seem to come to a point where strike action is always called for and often undertaken.

We thank everybody who is working hard to make this possible including parents and families who continue to work with us. I want to thank all the students in school today who came in with a mature and positive attitude and were a credit to themselves and the school despite the challenges.

I can confirm, as I have been asked directly, that the staff that are striking receive their full pay while they are on strike as this is a local strike and the pay is covered by the union funds. Equally, several parents have requested that there be a public meeting between the school leadership, the school governors and the union representative. Unfortunately, a joint meeting like this is something the school is unable to do.

The school is open to students on the following days/ times as per my previous letter:

The school will be open to some students on different days this week

If your child's year group is due to be in school, they should arrive at 8:45am. They will be dismissed at 1:15pm and allowed to collect a packed lunch before they leave. As always, the school will be open to vulnerable students in ANY year group who need to come to school. Please contact the main office if your child needs to be able to be in school and have a place to be able to work in school.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 11</u>
11/12/24	In school	In school	Work set at home	In school	Work set at home
12/12/24	In school	Work set at home	In school	Work set at home	In school

There is another union meeting planned for this Thursday 12th December where I am hopeful the school will be able to negotiate the end of these strikes with the NEU. However, as things stand, the strike dates have been announced and so the school must proceed as if the days of strike action are going ahead. Tomorrow (Wednesday), I will send out the plan for the four days of strike action next week to allow the maximum time for parents of children not in school to find alternative provisions.

The Year 7 cinema visit this Friday is going to be moved from this Friday 13th December to the following week. Given the amount of curriculum time missed due to the strike action, I want to try to avoid any further lesson disruption on the remaining days of school this term which are not impacted by the planned industrial action. Therefore, we will plan the Year 7 cinema visit to be rebooked for the following week - the final week of term. More information on the details of this will follow once we have confirmed the arrangements with the cinema.

I reiterate that the educational standards and opportunities for the children are always at the heart of everything we all do. Our data and performance are always public. Thank you for your support in understanding where we need to be as a school and the responsibilities all of us have in ensuring the children get to have the best they are entitled to.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Silk', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Silk
Headteacher