

## Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

**1st May 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to confirm that the NEU members' planned industrial action, based on a ballot from earlier in the year, remains ongoing and is currently scheduled to continue until 8th May.

In addition, I have now received confirmation that the NEU have announced **14 days more strike action - under this same ballot.**

- Monday 11 May 2026
- Wednesday 13 May 2026
- Thursday 14 May 2026
- Friday 15 May 2026
- Monday 18 May 2026
- Tuesday 19 May 2026
- Wednesday 20 May 2026
- Thursday 21 May 2026
- Friday 22 May 2026
- Monday 01 June 2026
- Tuesday 02 June 2026
- Wednesday 03 June 2026
- Thursday 04 June 2026
- Friday 05 June 2026

A reminder, that this ballot was originally from **January 5th 2026** and was about:

- Unfair and unacceptable management practices and failure to consult on management change
- Unfair application of sickness procedures
- To secure improvements in school policies and procedures
- Excessive workload

It is notable that the NEU initially announced 7 days of strike action either side of the February half-term on this ballot, but subsequently withdrew all dates following agreement at ACAS in February. There were no further issues until recently, when the NEU informed the school of 13 days of industrial action, effectively impacting the school every day over a three-week period from 21st April to 8th May. These additional dates will now bring the total to **27 days of near-consecutive strike action** in the lead up to and during GCSE examinations. These dates would appear not to relate to the redundancy and restructuring process, as the school has not yet been formally informed of the outcome of that separate ballot, despite it closing yesterday at 12:00pm.

I remain deeply concerned about the cumulative impact that sustained industrial action of this nature is having on the school, particularly in relation to its reputation within the community. Over a prolonged period, spanning well over a decade, the school has been subjected to repeated ballots, threats of strike action, and significant disruption to learning. This has, inevitably, eroded confidence and created a perception that the education of students is secondary to ongoing disputes.

It is also important to acknowledge the lived experience of our students during this time. It is not acceptable that children are required to navigate their way into school past picket lines, regularly comprised of a small number of actual school staff alongside larger groups of external individuals; often positioned at student entrances. This is not an environment that any child should be expected to encounter. I have ensured that a visible staff presence is in place to support students at these points, and I want to place on record my profound admiration for the maturity, composure and resilience they have shown. However, their ability to manage this situation does not make it appropriate or acceptable. They should not have to endure it, and I am deeply sorry that this has been their experience.

Against this backdrop, I can confirm that the school will remain **fully open for the week commencing Tuesday 5th May through to Friday 8th May**, as I have already stated. All students in all year groups are expected to attend as normal. It remains my firm intention to keep the school fully open, and we will continue to do so with determination and resolve. Despite ongoing pressure and failed attempts to disrupt the functioning of the school, we will not be diverted from our core purpose: providing education, stability and opportunity for our students. Our position is clear: the right of children to access their education must come first, and we will continue to act decisively to uphold that.

Throughout this period, my priority remains unequivocal: to advocate for the students of this school and to ensure that their education is protected. It is deeply regrettable that, time and again, it is the experience of children that is most directly affected by industrial disputes. This is neither acceptable nor sustainable. The right of children to access education must not be diminished in this way.

As always I greatly appreciate your support and patience as we navigate this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr. Silk  
**Headteacher**