

Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

30th April 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. Against this backdrop, I can confirm that the school will remain fully open for the week commencing **Tuesday, 5th May - Friday, 8th May**. All students in all year groups are expected to attend as normal, and the school day will begin and end at the usual times.

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.

I would like to address, directly, the inaccurate claims that have been circulated regarding the school's use of supply staff. The suggestion that the school is acting unlawfully is **entirely unfounded**. We have acted, at all times, in full compliance with the relevant legal framework. Agency staff have been deployed exclusively to cover pre-arranged and legitimate absences, including examination commitments, educational visits such as the Paris residential, and instances of staff illness unrelated to industrial action. This approach is entirely **consistent with established practice and reflects the cover policy agreed with union representatives in Summer 2025**. Assertions to the contrary are, at best, misinformed and, at worst, a deliberate misrepresentation of the facts.

Despite these challenges, the school remains operational because of the commitment and professionalism of the staff who continue to work, and because we have ensured that sufficient staffing is in place to sustain provision. We will continue to keep the school open and to uphold the standards that our students deserve.

We will continue to communicate plans on a week-by-week basis. I will therefore write again next week with further updates.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, understanding and patience during this period.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Silk
Headteacher