

Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

15th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to confirm that the NEU members' planned industrial action is due to begin on Tuesday, 21st April and is scheduled to continue until 8th May. As set out in my letter on Monday, I want to be absolutely clear that the school's position is to remain fully open for students.

The teaching, support and administrative staff who will be in school, alongside the senior leadership team and with the strategic direction and support from the governing body, will do everything within our power to ensure the continuity of education, teaching and pastoral support throughout this period of industrial action. This will require significant planning, commitment and flexibility, and I want parents to be reassured that the school is approaching this with absolute professionalism and determination.

For next week, the week commencing 20th April to 25th April, the school will be **fully open**, and **all lessons will continue in line with the normal school timetable**. All parents and carers should therefore send the students to school as normal, at the usual start time, and the school day will finish at the usual time.

In order to ensure that our arrangements remain robust and sustainable, we will communicate plans one week at a time. I will therefore write to you again next week with further updates regarding subsequent weeks. Work is already well underway to finalise those arrangements, and we will share them with you as soon as they are complete.

I had sincerely hoped that this period of industrial action had come to an end and that the school could move into a new chapter focused on progress, stability and working together in the interests of our students. I remain hopeful that a resolution can still be reached, founded on the principle that we all ultimately share the same goal: securing the very best outcomes and experiences for the young people in our care. However, while this action proceeds, my responsibility is clear. The school has both a moral and professional duty to remain open and to provide students with continuity, structure, safety and education.

This means that, while lessons may not always be delivered by a student's usual class teacher, we are absolutely committed to ensuring that every child has access to:

- their curriculum entitlement taught to them
- safe and supervised learning spaces
- a lunchtime meal in the dining room as usual
- the pastoral care and routines that are so important to their wellbeing

The efforts being made by staff, leaders and governors to keep the school fully operational are considerable, and I hope parents will recognise the seriousness with which we are approaching this challenge.

I therefore ask for your support in standing with the school during this period. More than ever, your partnership will be vital in helping us maintain stability, routine and continuity for our students. Please ensure that your daughter attends school **on time each day, in full school uniform, fully equipped and prepared to learn**, exactly as she would during any normal school week. The consistency of daily routines, punctual arrival, correct uniform and readiness for lessons will play an important role in enabling us to preserve a calm, purposeful and positive learning environment despite the challenges we are facing. By working together as a school community, we can ensure that our students continue to experience the structure, high expectations and sense of normality that are so important to their wellbeing and academic success.

I firmly believe that honesty and transparency are essential in times such as these. Having worked alongside this community for almost twenty years, I feel a deep responsibility to be frank with families and to honour the trust that has been built over that time.

I am informing you of the currently planned dates, but always with the hope that these dates may yet be called off. Should the NEU withdraw the strike action before next Tuesday, I will write to you immediately. Likewise, I will continue to update you regarding plans for the following weeks in due course.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr. Silk
Headteacher