



Headteacher: Ms Kelda Stevenson NPQH

26th June 2023

Dear Families,

Re: Planned strike action by the National Education Union (NEU)

The National Education Union (NEU) has declared further strike action which is currently planned to take place on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 5th July**
- **Friday 7th July**

We are hopeful that these strikes will be cancelled and if they are please be aware that **school will be open as normal** and your child must attend.

The strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the NEU and the Government over teachers' pay and the impact of funding on schools over a number of years, and not because of any issues at our school. I am contacting you at this point to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements and so that you can take the necessary action for your child(ren) if or when it may be required.

Members of the NEU are not required to let us know in advance whether they intend to be away from school although some may indicate their intentions to us. This means that, until the days of the strikes, we will not know for certain whether we will be able to run the school as we normally would. That being said I have met with our NEU union rep who has confirmed that approximately 70% of our teaching staff are NEU members and so we must assume that they will take industrial action.

Taking all of the above into consideration I have made the decision that school will remain open to vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and for Year 12 students. School will be closed to other children and work will be set for them. Below is a summary of what each group is doing on the upcoming strike days:

	Wednesday 5th July	Friday 7th July
Year 7	Working remotely at home. Guidance on Y7 Google Classroom	
Year 8	Working remotely at home. Guidance on Y8 Google Classroom	
Year 9	Working remotely at home. Guidance on Y9 Google Classroom	
Year 10	Working remotely at home. Guidance on Y10 Google Classroom	
Year 12	ALL YEAR 12 PUPILS IN SCHOOL – students should register as normal in form rooms at 8.40am. Students stay until the end of the school day unless they do not have a teacher for the last lesson in which case they may sign out	

The model we are running for Year 12 involves them attending school for a full school day. Students will have a mixture of taught lessons and independent study. **Students must bring physical copies of revision materials with them when they are in school on strike days.** These might include revision guides, notes and timetable. Personal learning checklists and past papers will also support focused and active revision. **Your child must attend school on strike days if they are in Year 12.**

If you are a critical worker, or we have previously contacted you to advise you that your child can attend school on strike days, you can book a place for your child to attend. If you would like your child to be in school for the strike days please could you contact my PA at zwilkinsl@swakeleys.org.uk by Thursday 29th June.





Our experience of delivering blended and online learning, developed during the pandemic, means that we have a well-established online learning facility, although we may not have staff able to facilitate this fully for all subject areas on any strike day. The Department for Education has said that there is no obligation for schools to cover the curriculum on strike days. However I am sure that we can agree that we want your child to be busy and engaged on the strike days. Because I am unable to know for sure which members of staff will be in school I am therefore not able to guarantee work will be consistently available for all students. We will ask staff who are not striking to provide work for students. Some staff will teach lessons via google meet. Other staff may set work on google classroom. If no work is available on google classroom we have provided some standalone activities which should keep your child busy over the strike days. Attached is information about what each year group should do on strike days and this will also be available on your child's year group google classroom.

Should your child require access to a device in order to complete work at home on the strike days please could you email my PA at: zwilkins1@swakeleys.org.uk by Thursday 29th June.

If your child is eligible for free school meals then please fill in the following form if you wish your daughter to come into school to collect her meal on the two strike days: <https://forms.gle/VEHy1N9spdtFo4Da9> If your daughter is in school on the strike days she will be able to have her lunch as normal as the canteen will be open.

I am sorry that you may have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they may experience further disruption to their education but hope that in communicating the uncertainty of the situation and our plan for the strikes will enable you time to make arrangements. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and you should be assured that Swakeleys School for Girls remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students and delivering high-quality teaching and learning.

I will inform you as soon as possible if or when I know further details and hope that a resolution can be reached between the NEU and the Government as quickly as possible. In the meantime if you have any queries do please address them to: office@swakeleys.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Kelda Stevenson