



27th January 2023

Dear parents, carers and all in the Chessington School community

I am sure that all parents are saddened by the news that the government could not reach an agreement with the teaching unions, and as a result, there is planned industrial action that will disrupt children's education. As the NEU (National Education Union) is the largest union in terms of membership at Chessington and Nationally, we will not be able to stay open for every year group. The school and the trust considers strike action to be a fundamental right of the profession. We are completely supportive of those who sacrifice their pay to protest against measures that have made an undeniably difficult job even more constricted in recent years. The fact that schools are being asked to do more with less is irrefutable. Following a voluntary survey with staff and some creative planning, we are now in a position to announce our plans for Wednesday 1st February.

We asked staff to support our planning by indicating whether they intend to take strike action. The striking teachers cannot be compelled to provide this information but hopefully we will be able to plan with more certainty once the survey has closed.

All we can do is try to dilute the disruption, for the children who have already missed out on a sizable chunk of their education through no fault of their own, and for the community that we serve. You will know and appreciate that the NEU has planned further strikes for March. I also appreciate that having your children at home on a day that was unexpected is an additional logistical problem but I hope that having around 6 weeks to plan for the latter strikes should allow families to make the necessary arrangements. Any year group unable to come into school will be provided with a comprehensive range of home learning activities for that day.

Our priority for keeping children in school has been: vulnerable students, exam year-groups, and the youngest members of our cohort, in that order.

Everyone valued • Every day an opportunity • Every moment focused on success



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We anticipate a number of staff to exercise their right to withdraw their labour and, as such, we will need to modify our curriculum. In addition, we will not be expecting staff to post work for timetabled lessons onto Google classrooms on this day. Please see below the plans for each year group:

Year 7 - In School. Please ensure they attend in PE Kit to enable flexibility.

Year 8 - Home Learning (SEND and any vulnerable students will be invited as per Lockdown)

Year 9 - Home Learning (SEND and any vulnerable students will be invited as per Lockdown)

Year 10 - In School. Please ensure they attend in normal Uniform

Year 11 - In School. Please ensure they attend in normal Uniform

Year 12 - In School

Year 13 - In School

Detentions will run for Years 7, 10 and 11 but it will not be possible to hold afterschool clubs on Wednesday.

Students who are in school will be expected at 0855 (No tutor time) however they will be supervised if you need to drop them off as normal or for travel reasons . Further details will be sent early next week if required and if anything changes nationally. Please send any questions as usual to contactus@chessington.kingston.sch.uk and we will reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Ash Ali
Headteacher - Chessington School
CEO - The Every Child Every Day Academy Trust