



MARLING
SCHOOL

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MARLING SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM
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NEU Strike Action: Wednesday 1st February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Further to my message of 17th January 2023, I am writing to confirm arrangements for the first day of strike action planned by the National Education Union (NEU) for Wednesday 1st February 2023.

As I am sure you are aware, the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over funding for schools and teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. The impact of the action on the running of each school will vary according to the percentage of staff that are NEU members at that institution.

As more than three quarters of our teaching staff are entitled to take strike action, our ability to open safely and productively to students is severely compromised. **The school will therefore be closed to all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10* and 12.** (Arrangements for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers can be found below).

**The Drama trip for Year 10 students to see "Noughts and Crosses" will be going ahead as planned. Arrangements for this will be communicated directly to those involved.*

Teachers who are working as normal on that day will be providing learning remotely for all timetabled periods. Workers are not required to tell employers if they intend to take strike action so we cannot confirm which lessons will take place at this stage. Teachers delivering remote learning will communicate with their students at the start of the day through Edulink to share arrangements with them. All students are expected to check their Edulink messages by 9 a.m. then regularly during the day. They must engage with all lessons taking place.

Work will not be set for lessons taken by staff taking industrial action. By law they cannot be required to set work and non-striking colleagues cannot be directed to cover for them. Students with gaps in their timetable are encouraged to use the time to review topics from earlier in the year.

Almost all platforms used for remote learning can be accessed by a wide range of digital devices including laptops, tablets, mobile phones and games consoles. The Chromebooks used by Year 7 and 8 students are well suited to the job. If your child will not have access to a device that allows them to connect to lesson resources, please contact reception@marling.school. Arrangements can be made to supervise them in school.

The school is open to students in Year 11 and are all expected to attend as normal. Mock examinations will be taking place as per the published timetable. Students should bring revision materials with them as they will have supervised private study for periods they are not in exams.

The school is also open to students in Year 13 though attendance for them is optional (unless they are studying an A level Art subject in which case it is compulsory*). They will be able to attend any lessons they have with teachers not taking industrial action (please note we will not be able to inform them in advance which lessons, if any, this applies to) and be supervised in study for the rest of the day. All learning taking place will also be offered virtually so

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students can choose to study at home, attend lessons virtually and revise for their upcoming mock exams if they wish.

*The pre-release material for the A level Art exams is released on Wednesday 1st February. All Art students are therefore expected to attend school to use that material to prepare for upcoming mock exams. They will be able to work within the Art department for any times they are not engaged in other learning activities.

All private transport services will be operating as normal on Wednesday 1st February for Year 11 and Year 13 students to use. We are aware of planned industrial action on the railways but would expect students in Year 11 to where possible make alternative transport arrangements as they have on previous occasions the train service has been disrupted.

Families of students considered potentially vulnerable will be contacted to discuss arrangements for their child by the end of the day on Friday 27th January 2023. If you haven't heard from the school by then and think your child should be in that category, please contact studentsupport@marling.school.

If you are a "critical worker" (for example you work in the Health and Social Care or Public Safety sectors) and need the school to provide supervision for your child so you can work please contact the school via reception@marling.school. A definition of "Critical worker" can be found [HERE](#) for your information.

Further strikes are planned for the NEU on Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. Once we have been able to assess the impact of the first day of strike action we will confirm plans for those dates.

Yours Sincerely,

Glen Balmer
Headteacher