



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

27 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

Strike Action: Wednesday 1 February

I write to update you regarding the forthcoming strikes by members of the National Education Union and impact on MRC. Our response follows guidance from the Department for Education.

The industrial action, as you know, is a result of a national dispute between the NEU and the government and is not specific to our school. The overwhelming majority of schools locally and nationally will be impacted and each school will have different arrangements for students due to the number of members of staff who are likely to strike. There are four days of planned strike action; this letter pertains to 1 February only. I will write to parents / carers separately regarding the other days in due course. This situation is still quite fluid and it is possible that future strikes may be averted if a national agreement is reached, or the strikes are called off.

I have been working closely with colleagues here to plan for the strikes so that we can minimise any disruption to your child's education. I am aware that a significant number of colleagues will not be in school on Wednesday 1 February. As a result, the school cannot open as normal and we will be closed to some year groups.

Arrangements for partial closure:

The DfE guidance asks headteachers to prioritise exam classes and vulnerable children. As a result, **Year 11 must attend school as normal.** They will have lessons during the day and complete 'walking talking mocks' which is where teachers help them to prepare precise answers for exams in English and maths. This is crucial to their success in the summer as they will learn how to structure answers under exam conditions to gain the highest possible marks. It is essential they attend that day.

If your child is classified as 'vulnerable', you will be contacted by your child's Head of Year and given further information. These children should also attend for the whole day. Please note that all students should wear school uniform and that transport to school will operate as normal. The canteen will be open as normal.

All other year groups will be set work to complete from home. This will be set on Arbor for each lesson and students should complete all tasks set.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Edwards
Principal

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