

14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Planned strike action at Melton Vale Sixth Form College on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

We write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

**Background**

We have had confirmation from the NEU that a very small number of members intend to strike on both dates detailed above and an additional small group plan to only strike on either Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>. This is to minimise disruption to specific groups of students who were affected by previous strike days.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

**What is the dispute which has led to the strike about**

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

**What will happen at the school during the strike?**

Whilst I cannot give specific numbers of those intending to strike on either Wednesday or Thursday, I am assured that the vast majority of lessons can go ahead as normal.

We will therefore be open as normal to all year groups.

- All years will be expected to attend college on both days, with the normal attendance monitoring arrangements in place.
- The college will remain open for all year groups with all lessons continuing as normal, where possible. This is with the exception of lessons delivered by striking staff. We will not know officially the impact of this until 9am on either day. Shortly after this time a message will go out to all students detailing the lessons that are going ahead and which have been supplemented with online learning, where

possible. Unfortunately, due to the size of our setting we are unable to facilitate internal in-person cover arrangements for this day.

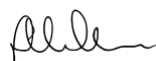
- The college will be open at the normal opening and closing times.
- Students are welcome, as normal, to be in the building for independent study during the normal opening hours.
- The canteen will be open as normal for food and refreshments.
- For students with a special educational need, we encourage attendance on this day. Teaching assistants are not participating in strike action and are therefore available to support independent study / facilitate normal scheduled 1:1 support session where required.
- For students who would normally receive wellbeing support on a Wednesday or Thursday, this will go ahead as planned.

Whilst it is not currently indicated as a planned action, some staff might form a picket line outside the college. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents that as a Trust we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the college (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We thank you for your continued patience and support during this period.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Leah Miller  
Acting Headteacher