

27th January 2023

NEU Strike – Wednesday 1st February

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you may be aware, schools across the UK will be disrupted by a day of national of strike action next Wednesday 1st February. KAA is no exception to this.

Over the week we have been working hard with our staff to create the fullest possible programme of education for the day, to minimise the disruption students will face. We have prioritised those with national exams this year, as well as vulnerable students. We have done this whilst respecting the right our staff have to participate in the strikes.

The final arrangements are copied below, and we are communicating these to students directly today and at the start of next week. I'm sorry I have not been able to give more notice about our plans, but we have been doing everything we possibly can to maximise what we can offer, and this has taken some time;

- Year 11 and Year 13 will be at school next Wednesday. Their GCSEs and A Levels are fast approaching, and every lesson counts. Students should arrive for 9 am latest, and will have a full programme of lessons. Y11 will focus on core subjects of English, Maths and Science, and finish at 2.30 (unless staying for additional intervention). Y13 will finish at 3.50pm as normal.
- Y10 and Y12 will – in the main – work independently from home. They should follow their normal timetable – all six lessons – but via 'Google Classroom', where they will find the relevant work.
- Students in Y7 – 9 will also work mainly from home. We are producing four lessons for them to complete that day, each an hour long. Further work will also be available on their Google Classrooms as well.
- Students in any year group who are likely to find it hard to work productively at home will be encouraged to attend school, and complete the independent work in a supervised setting from 9am to 2.20pm. This would include students with ECHPs. Directors of Learning will contact individual parents on Monday, where they think a student would benefit from this. Parents can also request for their child to attend – just email info@kaa.org.uk.
- All students coming to school should enter and leave via the main entrance.

A few points for those students working from home;

- At 8.30am, students will receive an email from their Director of Learning with all the relevant links. They should be logged on for that time, ready to receive this.
- Students must complete a full day's work. I won't pretend it will be as good as being in school, but there is an opportunity here to practice working independently, and they should make the most of that. The lessons will be high quality and should be fully completed.

- Because a number of staff will be withdrawing their labour, this won't be 'remote learning' as it was during Covid. Students shouldn't expect to be able to message teachers during the day, for example (as they may be participating in the strikes).
- If any parent is worried about their child having easy access to the internet and a dedicated computer from home, that would be an excellent reason for them to attend school.
- Students – particularly those in Y10 or Y12 – should not feel anxious about falling behind in their courses. All students nationally are in a similar position, so they won't be disadvantaged vs their peers. Also the online work will be helpful (as long as they fully complete it).

I want to stress that all staff at KAA – those who will strike next Wednesday, and those who will be in – remain fully committed to supporting your children. Our staff team are passionate about what they do, and regularly go above and beyond for the young people in their care. This has always been true of KAA, and always will be. Anyone who strikes is not doing so out of a lack of care – it's because they feel the education system is in urgent need of investment, and that all students will lose out if that is not addressed.

Parents can read more about the reasons for the strikes here: <https://neu.org.uk/press-releases/neu-take-strike-action-over-pay>

And information on the government's response can be found here: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/01/16/everything-you-need-to-know-about-strike-action-in-schools-and-colleges/>

I'll close by saying how sorry I am for any inconvenience the strikes will cause to parents and students at KAA. I hope people can see we have done everything we can to minimise their impact. I'm hopeful that – if the additional strike days do go ahead in March – KAA will be able to stay more fully open than has been possible this time, and our ambition will be to run a much more normal school day. I will update parents on that nearer the time.

Best wishes,



David Benson
Principal