



Friday, 27 January 2023

Dear Families

RE: Strike Day – Wednesday, 1 February 2023

As you will have heard in the media, strike action has been announced by the National Education Union (NEU). Across February and March there will be four strike days affecting schools in London:

- Wednesday, 1 February 2023 – National
- Thursday, 2 March 2023 – Regional: South West, South East & London
- Wednesday, 15 March 2023 – National
- Thursday, 16 March 2023 – National.

Approximately 80% of the teachers at Sydenham School are members of the NEU and will be on strike on these dates. This is a significant proportion of our staff and will mean that the provision and care we provide on these days for our students will be substantially restricted and will affect our ability to adhere to normal, timetabled lessons.

All decisions on this have been taken in line with guidance provided by the DfE, the Local Authority and the relevant trade unions. We ask families to note that each school will be affected to a varying extent, depending on the number of their teachers who are NEU members. The actions which schools take at this time will not all be the same but will reflect their individual circumstances.

The plans we are setting out below will be in place for **Wednesday, 1 February 2023**. It is likely that that this will be the way of working for the three subsequent strike dates. However, we will confirm arrangements for those dates nearer the time.

Years 12 and 13

Year 12 and Year 13 students should come into school in-person if they have lessons on that day. Study space will be available for all students, supervised by a senior member of staff. Sixth Form teachers will email their students individually to let them know if their lessons will be taking place. Please note that any teachers who are on strike will not be expected to communicate to students if they are taking strike action.

Year 11

Any Year 11 students who are eligible for Free School Meals, who are 'Children Looked After' (i.e. in the care of the Local Authority), or who currently attend the Sydenham Learning Hub should come to school in-person. They will be taught live lessons if their teacher is not striking, engage in independent study and this will be supervised by a senior member of staff.



Any Year 11 students who do not fall into one of these three categories should remain at home for the school day on Wednesday 1 February. Students should undertake independent study or take part in live lessons taught online by any teachers who are not taking strike action. Any teachers who are not on strike will send Teams invitations to their students for any lessons they are teaching that day. Please note that any teachers who are striking will not be expected to communicate to students if they are taking strike action.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

All students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 should remain at home for the day. Students should undertake independent study or take part in live lessons by any teachers who are not striking. Any teachers who are not on strike will send Teams invitations to their students for any lessons they are teaching that day. Please note that any teachers who are striking will not be expected to communicate to students if they are taking strike action.

Independent Work

Any students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 who are not participating in live lessons should work independently throughout the school day. We recommend the following sites for independent study:

- BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Sparx Maths <https://sparxmaths.com>.

Years 11 and 13 students should do retrieval practice for their forthcoming mock exams using the 'blank paper' activity, flashcards and practice questions. Study advice is available at the following link: [Sydenham-School-Study-Guide-June-2018_1.pdf](#).

Free School Meal Provision

If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 or 10 and is eligible for Free School Meals, we are able to provide a free packed lunch for them to collect from the school site between 12-2pm on Wednesday, 1 February. In order for us to make sure enough food is prepared, please fill out the form below to request the packed lunch if you would like your child to have one.

Link to form: <https://forms.office.com/e/bZn5i0W6FU>

If you have any questions about any these arrangements, please contact the school at info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lowe

Headteacher