

Dear Families,

**RE: Strike Days – Wednesday, 5 July and Friday, 7 July 2023**

As you will have heard in the media, further strike action has been announced by the National Education Union (NEU).

- Wednesday, 5 July 2023 – National
- Friday, 7 July 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, 5 July and Friday, 7 July 2023.

**Years 7, 8 and 9**

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 should remain at home for these days. Students should undertake independent study or take part in live lessons via Teams 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.

**Year 10**

Year 10 students will continue with their work experience as planned.

**Years 12**

Year 12 students should come into school in-person if they have lessons on those days. 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.

**Independent Work**

Any students in Years 7, 8 and 9 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>.

### **Whole School Production**

We are pleased to announce that the live performances of Matilda will now take place on Tuesday 4 July and Thursday 6 July. Details will follow.

### **Free School Meal Provision**

If your child is in Years 7, 8 and 9 and is eligible for Free School Meals, we are able to provide a packed lunch for them to collect from the school site between 12-2pm at no charge on Wednesday, 5 July and Friday, 7 July 2023.

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: [Free School Meal Form](#)

If you have any questions about any these arrangements, please contact the school at [info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lowe

Headteacher