



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

24 January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

School closure for Years 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 on Wednesday 1 February 2023 due to National Education Union Teachers' Strike

As you will be aware, the National Education Union has announced a nationwide teachers' strike on Wednesday 1 February 2023. This is part of a series of 4-day planned strikes, which are scheduled to take place on 1 February, 1 March, 15 March and 16 March 2023.

In line with the Department for Education guidance, the school must take every reasonable step to remain open on a strike day for as many students as possible, prioritising vulnerable students, students whose parents are critical workers and exam groups.

Following union advice, teachers going on strike are not required to inform the school they will be absent, nor teach lessons (including remotely) or set work for students. Teachers who choose not to strike and attend work are also advised by unions not to cover lessons for absent colleagues who are on strike. As you will appreciate, this makes planning for the education of students exceptionally difficult as I will not know staff availability until the day of the strike. My primary consideration is the health, welfare and safety of students and staff.

Due to limited staff availability, I have, therefore, taken the difficult decision to **close the school on Wednesday 1 February to Years 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13**. This decision is supported by the Governing Body.

School will remain open ONLY to:

- **Year 11**
- **Year 7**
- **Vulnerable Students** (see attached definition – Appendix A)
- **Students whose parents are classed as 'Critical Workers'** (see attached definition – Appendix A)
- **Students who have a lack of internet connection/IT access at home** and so are unable to access home learning.

For students working from home

- **Years 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13**

Students should complete the work set on the following page at home. Year 8, 9 and 10 will focus on core subjects (English, Maths and Science) and PSHE, with work linked to their programmes of study. Year 12 should focus on completing their Extended Project Qualification and Year 13 will have a reading/revision day to help prepare for their exams.

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Year 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 students will be marked as 'Y' in the register, which will NOT count towards the students' absence record.

Work for students in Years 8, 9 and 10:

Students should attempt up to five hours' worth of work in total from the following selection of lessons. There is no expectation for students to complete all lessons within any unit or submit any work.

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
English	Y8 English Work Lessons 1 and 2	Y9 English Work Lessons 1 and 2	Y10 English Work Lessons 1 and 2
Maths	Y8 Maths Work Lessons 1, 2 and 3	Y9 Maths Work Lessons 1, 2, 3 and 4	Y10 Maths Work Lessons 1, 2 and 3
<i>Sparx online learning also available for all year groups</i>			
Science	Y8 Science Work Lessons 1 and 2	Y9 Science Work Lessons 1 and 2	Y10 Science Work Lessons 1 and 2
<i>Optional extra: Small Science Projects - VLE</i>			
PSHE	PSHE - Internet Safety Unit Lessons 1 and 2		

For students attending school

- **Years 7 and 11**

Year 7 and 11 students are expected to attend school as normal. If your child is ill on the day, please telephone the school using the normal sickness absence number. Year 7 and 11 students who do not attend school on the day and do not have an 'authorised absence', will be marked as 'unauthorised'.

Year 7 will attend lessons, but this will not be their normal school timetable. Students should bring their normal school equipment to school, but do not need any books. They should also bring their PE kit.

Year 11 will have core lessons in English and Maths and should bring their books for these subjects. Year 11 will also attend a number of sessions throughout the morning led by the renowned motivational speaker, Kevin Mincher, on raising aspirations, revision strategies, self-belief and resilience. Further information about Kevin can be found on his website: <https://www.unstoppableteen.com/schools/>. This valuable session was planned for Year 11 later in the year, but we have managed to bring the date forward.

- **Vulnerable Students, Critical Worker Parents, Students requiring IT access**

Students will complete the same work in school which has been set for their respective year group working at home (see previous table) with supervision provided.

- **Staff Supervision**

Please note that sessions will be taken by teachers who make themselves available for work on the day, cover supervisors and teaching assistants.



- **School Day and Registration**

Students should arrive to school at the normal start time of 8.55am.

- Year 7 should go to their normal form rooms
- Year 11 should go to their normal form rooms
- All other students should go to the Dining Hall

The school will close at the normal time of 3.45pm.

- **School Uniform**

Year 7-11 students attending school should wear their normal school uniform.

- **Transport**

The local authority have informed the school that school buses will run at their normal times.

- **Food Arrangements**

The school canteen will be open providing a limited menu of hot snacks and sandwiches at break and lunchtime. Please indicate on the Microsoft Form below whether your child will be purchasing food from the canteen or bringing a packed lunch.

- **Free School Meals**

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and attending school, they will be able to purchase food in the canteen as normal.

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and NOT attending school, please email Mrs Askew (t.askew@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk) **by 3pm on Friday 27 January 2023** to pre-order a sandwich lunch. This can be collected from main reception on Wednesday 1 February between 11am and 12noon.

****Registering your child to attend school****

It is essential that we have an accurate list of all students attending school to facilitate planning and to ensure the health and safety of students.

Please complete the attached Microsoft Form ONLY if your child is attending school.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Rn4cu6c2KY>

If your child IS NOT attending school, the form does NOT need to be completed. **Forms must be completed by 9am on Monday 30 January 2023**, after which time it will not be possible to register your child. A separate form should be completed for each sibling.

I appreciate that this is a difficult time for parents and for students who are home learning. I would like to reassure you that I have taken every step possible to keep the school open for as many year groups as I can, and to provide an education for students, given the restrictions and uncertainties faced through industrial action. My primary consideration is the health and safety of students and staff. These plans are, of course, subject to change.



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I will contact you before the next proposed strike date (1 March 2023) to share plans, but would respectfully ask you to think ahead about arrangements for your child on future planned strike days (1 March, 15 March, 16 March) as they could potentially be at home on this day.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher



Appendix A

Definition of Vulnerable Children and Young People (as classified by the Department for Education)

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, (including children and young people who have a child in need plan or a child protection plan) and children who are looked-after by the local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance.

This might include:

- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services or who have previously received support from children's social care services (as identified by local authorities)
- adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- care leavers
- children and young people in a family circumstance presenting challenges for them, such as drug and alcohol misuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Definition of Critical Workers (as classified by the Department for Education)

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to an emergency response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. If exceptional circumstances mean that attendance is temporarily limited, children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to their setting if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.



Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during an emergency response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- an emergency response
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and Arm's length bodies (ALB).

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to an emergency response)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during an emergency response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.



Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity, and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during an emergency response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors