

27 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you about the proposed strike action called by the National Education Union (NEU) for Wednesday 1 February (and subsequently on 1 March, 15 March and 16 March). As in many schools, a significant number of teachers at Vandyke are members of the union.

The strike action is part of the union's dispute with the Government over teachers' pay and funding for it. It is not a dispute related to the school. However, whatever our individual views on strike action, there is a funding crisis in schools and in particular affecting the recruitment and retention of teachers. I hope that a resolution between the union and the Government can be found.

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff, and also has a responsibility to keep the school open where possible. Staffing levels are clearly a key aspect in this and staff taking strike action are not required to declare intentions for the strike days.

Following a careful risk assessment of the circumstances likely to pertain on 1 February, **the school will be open for students on Wednesday and all students are expected to attend**. While much of the school-day will run as normal, there are likely to be some changes for some classes. We would ask that all students in Y9-11 bring their PE kit to school on Wednesday.

Were the situation to change, we would inform you as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions please contact [office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk).

Yours sincerely



Tim Carroll

Headteacher