

THE FERNWOOD SCHOOL

An Academy of Academic Excellence and Leading Edge School



Dear parents and carers

As per my previous letter the National Education Union (NEU) is in a formal dispute with the Secretary of State for Education and have voted for strike action.

The NEU's members will take part in strike action on:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Wednesday 1 March 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

In keeping with my responsibilities in regards Health and Safety I am only able to keep the school open for year 11 students on Wednesday February 1st due to a large number of colleagues being in the NEU.

I also want to make you aware that a number of support staff are in the NEU and teaching staff are in the NASUWT. Neither met the 50% threshold for a legal strike but of those that voted a very large majority were in favour.

There are two large trade unions for Senior Staff and Headteachers. The National Association for Headteachers (NAHT) has voted in favour of both action short of strikes and is prepared to strike. ASCL has taken an indicative ballot, and this has met with similar results as the NAHT.

These decisions are taken with a huge level of emotional conflict as staff want to be in school with children. Recruitment and retention of staff needs a clear strategy. I have never known recruitment and retention to be so challenging. Pay is but one factor among many.

This letter is sent with the sole intention of illuminating a crisis that has been developing for years. I hope a resolution is concluded as soon as possible.

Year 11 students will receive a combination of timetabled lessons and supported revision and examination preparation. For all other years, curriculum work will be provided via the year group Teams page.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and you would like a meal to be provided on the days of the strike action, please email notify@fernwoodschool.org.uk by 3pm on Tuesday 31st January.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Paul Burke
Headteacher

High Achievement with Care & Discipline for All