

27 February 2022

### **Planned Strike Action at Hodge Hill College on Wednesday 1 March 2023**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

#### **Background**

Birmingham City Council has had confirmation from NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike that will take place on 1 March 2023.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

#### **What is the dispute which has led to the strike about?**

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

#### **What will happen at the school during the strike?**

- School will be open to pupils in Year 11 and those who are vulnerable or are the children of critical workers
- If you are a critical worker and your child will require a school place on the proposed strike days, if we have to partially close, please complete this online form: <https://bit.ly/3wo6luX>. A list of critical workers can be found on pages 22-23 within this document <http://bit.ly/3XPP2OX>
- Children in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 who are not attending school on Wednesday 1 March 2023 will have work set for them remotely through the Class Charts programme
- As we are still open to Year 11 pupils their attendance is expected as normal as the Department for Education expects all school-registered children of compulsory school age to be in attendance on school opening days
- If your child is entitled to a free school meal, you will receive a text/in-app message with a link to complete an online form (one form per child) confirming that you would like a packed lunch for them. The packed lunches will be delivered directly to the pupils and must be kept refrigerated at home

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances and we appreciate that any partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Hodge Hill College. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Herrmann".

Hannah Herrmann  
**Headteacher**