



23 January 2023

Dear parents and carers

**Re: Strike action information**

I'm sure that you will have read the news that across England and Wales the largest teaching union, the NEU, has announced that strike action will take place in February and March initially. This follows the action already taking place in Scotland over recent months.

The reason that strike action will be taken across England and Wales is over what the NEU has called a 'recruitment and retention crisis' where the profession has been subjected to a 23% real-term pay cut since 2010 and a 'third of teachers leave the profession within 5 years of qualifying'. The union has stated that despite repeated attempts over a number of years to engage the government in meaningful discussion regarding recruitment and retention, this has not happened and the government's own teacher recruitment targets are 'routinely missed'. Unions remain committed to negotiation at any point with the government.

The dates that strike action is proposed to take place are:

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**Wednesday and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March.**

At the end of last week, the NEU confirmed that the strike proposed on the **1<sup>st</sup> February** would definitely go ahead across England and Wales and it is expected that learning may be disrupted on that day at Brockington. We are carefully considering several options, including whether we will need to partially close or fully close the school. A decision to do so would not be taken lightly and only as a last resort. However, **we recommend that you start to make alternative childcare arrangements for this date where you may need to.**

One of the proposed strike dates (1<sup>st</sup> March) falls directly within our Year 11 mock examination schedule. As such, we have altered the mock examination schedule so that no mock examinations will take place on strike days, which means that exams that were scheduled on 1<sup>st</sup> March have been moved. An updated mock exam timetable is now on the website.

I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education; I understand that this situation may be frustrating and hope that national resolutions can be found swiftly. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Sadie Batstone  
Principal

