



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Ms E Ellis BA, MA

09 March 2023

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to update you on the arrangements during the forthcoming two days of planned strike action by the NEU (National Education Union) on **Wednesday and Thursday, 15th and 16th March**. As explained in my previous letter, the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over funding levels for schools, teacher recruitment and retention and teachers' pay, not because of any issues at our school. At the time of writing, the strike is set to go ahead but of course I will contact you if the situation changes.

Situations at different schools may vary, depending on the union membership at each school, so headteachers are making decisions based on their particular context. Here at Fearnhill, the arrangements will be as they were on 1st March, i.e.

- **Years 7-10** School is closed to these year groups. Students can take the opportunity to work on homework and 'Super Curriculum' projects; details are on the website here: <https://fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/learning/fearnhill-flyers/>
- **Years 11-13** Students in these year groups should attend as normal. **Mock exams will be taking place as planned and attendance is important.** Students have been given guidance on how the exams will work; timings of the day are as normal. Students will be supervised by senior staff to complete quiet study as needed. The Year 11 period 6 revision sessions from 3.00-3.50pm will not run on either day.
- Parents of students who receive free school meals will receive a sign-up form to complete, so that we can prepare lunches to be collected here from school if requested.
- There will be no breakfast, homework or after school clubs running on this day
- School will be open as normal on Friday 17th March, which is also a non-uniform day in aid of Comic Relief. A letter has already come to you with details of the day.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and/or that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and thank you for your support in ensuring that members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Fearnhill remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office at admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk and put 'strike action' in the title of your email so that we can deal with it appropriately.

Yours faithfully

Ms E Ellis
Headteacher

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