



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Wednesday 25th January 2023

Dear parent/guardian

Industrial Action by NEU

As you will be aware the NEU have announced strike action to their teacher members on the following dates:

- Wednesday 01 February 2023
- Wednesday 01 March 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

We recognise the strength of feeling within the profession towards the government currently and we respect the right of colleagues to participate in industrial action, including taking part in this strike. I would ask you also to respect this and to direct any concerns or questions directly to myself.

The DfE has published new guidance to schools, which we are following, along with that of the Mercian Trust. Due to the number of NEU members within the teaching staff, **the decision has been taken to operate a digital learning day on Wednesday 1st February for the majority of students.** We won't know until the day how many eligible staff are actually out of school and therefore I cannot guarantee adequate supervision for this day.

The students will be expected to follow their regular timetable at home, logging into Teams to access lessons and/or resources.

Staff should be speaking to the students before 1st February to check:

- That they have access to a MS Team for each subject/form group
- They have the use of a computer or device at home
- They are aware of the broader curriculum for each subject or independent learning opportunities

It is important that you contact us at the school if you are concerned of any of the points above, particularly in terms of students having a device to work on. Please let us know via this [MS Form](#).

All staff who are not striking will be in school and will be delivering online lessons or directing students to resources for learning. Each student should check Teams to see if a lesson has been set up for their timetabled period and attend it if this is the case. If no lesson has been set up, or there is no message of work to complete, they should carry out independent learning in that subject. For Year 11 and 13

students, this could be revision ahead of the summer. For others, this could be the completion of homework, NEAs or other ongoing work. For those who are not sure, the [curriculum page](#) of the school website has a wide range of resources and we have also put together some [extended learning opportunities](#).

Form tutors may also create a morning form period to check that students are up and ready to learn, so all students should log onto Teams by 8.45am in order to check their schedule for the day. Please let us know if there are problems accessing resources. Can I also ask that you reiterate the expected standards for remote learning as set out below?



Pupils should have their microphones muted unless asked to unmute by the teacher (although there may be times where this is not appropriate, i.e. in Language lessons).

Pupils must use the Raise Hand Function if they would like to ask a question.



As directed by the teacher, if the use of cameras is appropriate to the lesson then apply a background filter, dress appropriately and behave in the same manner that is expected within the classroom.

Pupils should treat online sessions in the same way as they would treat a 'normal' classroom lesson. E.g. lesson materials should be to hand, they should be away from potential distractions, mobile phones away etc.



Pupils should only use the Conversation function when instructed to by the teacher. Anything posted must be related to the learning and/or to offer support to other pupils. Emojis, 'likes' and other such inputs should not be used



The pastoral teams are currently working through a list of students who they will invite into the school for the day and these families will be contacted individually.

We will evaluate the number of staff taking strike action after 1st February in order to make plans for the subsequent days of industrial action.

Can I also take this opportunity to point out that Friday 27th January is a regular school day? It had previously been designated as a staff training day across the Mercian trust, but this was removed from the calendar before Christmas. Students are expected in school on Friday 27th.

Kind regards

Richard Langton
Headmaster