



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Thursday 29th June 2023

Dear parent/guardian

Industrial Action by NEU

Following the NEU strike action earlier in the year, there are two further days of industrial action coming up:

- Wednesday 5th July 2023
- Friday 7th July 2023

As I previously said, 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.

We are continuing to following the DfE guidance to schools. Due to the number of NEU members within the teaching staff who took part in the previous action, **the decision has been taken to operate digital learning days on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12.** I cannot guarantee adequate supervision for this day and it would be more disruptive to the learning of students to be in school and have to make travel arrangements. There may be some other students invited to be in school or on offsite visits on these days and these parents will be contacted separately.

As previously, the students not in school will be expected to follow their regular timetable at home, logging into Teams to access lessons and/or resources.

We have previously carried out student surveys to ascertain barriers to learning experienced on the previous strike days and are addressing this in school. Staff are, additionally, speaking to the students before 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 if you haven't done already via the enquiries email address.

All staff who are not striking will be in school and will be delivering 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. 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



Remote Learning

Quas dederis solas semper habebis opes

Staff 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 continue to follow the progress on settlement talks between the government and unions and will advise you of any changes to these arrangements. We will also continue to look at options for mitigating lost learning for students.

Please do contact us at the school with any queries.

Kind regards

Richard Langton
Headmaster