

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



25th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Strike Action by NEU

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action, which will take place on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. I am writing to give you as much notice as possible of the likely impact of the action on school.

I am sorry to inform you that QEGS will be closed on Wednesday 1st February 2023. Please do not send your child into school on this day.

I have not taken this decision lightly. I remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students and feel that I would be unable to provide this with the staff I have available. While the planned action is as a result of a national dispute between the unions and the government, and not specifically at QEGS or the QEGSMAT, it is important that I respond accordingly in the interests of our students whilst respecting the rights of our staff. In anticipation of this action, I have already prepared a response plan to minimise disruption.

All work for the day will be set via Go 4 Schools. All QEGS students already have access to Go4S. Passwords checks and resets should be done before the industrial action day.

Students who are entitled to a free school meal will be able to access a packed lunch. More details to follow on drop off points and collection.

We will be telephoning as many students and parents throughout the day to carry out 'safe and well' checks. Please ensure that your child is at home or with a relative during the normal hours of the school day.

I appreciate that industrial action is disruptive, and you may need to change your plans or working arrangements whilst this action is ongoing. I will of course continue to monitor the arrangements in place and make modifications where possible to improve support for students wherever possible. If the strike action is called off, then we will confirm this as soon as we can and in this eventuality the school will be open as usual.

The NEU has indicated that they will continue strike action for a further three days after this first strike on the **1st March, the 15th and 16th March 2023**. Please make a note of these dates now and I will write to you in advance of each date to confirm any changes to arrangements and whether the strike is going ahead and whether school must close on these days. At this moment in time, I am unable to state whether school will be open or closed on these days.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

I am working closely with our staff union representatives and HR 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 enquiries@qegs.email and thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Garrity', written in a cursive style.

Scott Garrity
Headteacher