



21<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Industrial Action – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April & Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Parents and carers may be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) has planned for further strikes on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. A recent offer made by the Secretary of State in response to the national dispute over pay and conditions was rejected by unions. The offer made to increase teachers' salaries meant that a significant proportion of the salary increase would have needed to have been met by existing budgets which schools cannot afford. In relation to the strikes over the next two weeks, the DfE have asked secondary schools to prioritise provision for students in Year 11 and 13. As you will know from previous strike action, NEU members are not required to inform their school in advance if they plan to take action, making it challenging to plan and prepare for strike days. I have been working closely with the union representative here at Riddlesdown to be able to plan provision and am pleased that students in Year 11 and 13 will be able to attend school. In addition, to support the preparation for the Year 10 Religion and Worldviews exams, students in Year 10 are invited to a *walking talking mock* session on one of the two days. Any students who have planned activities as part of practical components of their GCSE and / or A Level PE, Dance and Spanish on either of the strike days will continue as planned; in addition, the Year 13 Business Studies trip will go ahead. Full arrangements are as follows:

**Year 13** students should come to College VI as usual on both 27<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Teachers who are available will teach their usual lesson and those who are not will have provided work to complete which is part of sequenced and planned revision. There will be study areas available for students to use. Students will have access to the College VI Café and should wear usual smart attire.

**Year 11** students should come to school as usual on both 27<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May and follow their normal timetable in their usual classrooms. Where the teacher is present, students will have normal lessons. If the teacher is not present, work will have been set by their class teacher and this will either be delivered by a subject specialist, where possible, or will be supervised study. As lessons have been set by teachers, the attendance of students is crucial so that they don't miss something that is part of the sequenced preparation for exams. Students will have access to the College VI Café and should come to school in full uniform and fully equipped for their day.

**Year 10** students are expected to attend a *walking talking mock* to support preparation for their RW GCSE exams. They should attend school at the time specified below. Upon arrival, students should report immediately to the Main Hall, entering through the outside door at the side of the Hall at the front of the school. Here they will register and carry out their revision session. They will be dismissed from the Hall.

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Aquila Year 10 Students	Arrival / register 8.30am Walking Talking Mock 8.40am – 10.10am Remote Learning (at home) Period 4, 5, 6
Orion Year 10 Students	Arrival / register 10.30am Walking Talking Mock 10.40am – 12.10pm

	Remote Learning (at home) Period 1, 5, 6
Pegasus Year 10 Students	Remote Learning (at home) – all day
Phoenix Year 10 Students	Remote Learning (at home) – all day

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Aquila Year 10 Students	Remote Learning (at home) – all day
Orion Year 10 Students	Remote Learning (at home) – all day
Pegasus Year 10 Students	Arrival / register 8.30am Walking Talking Mock 8.40am – 10.10am Remote Learning (at home) Period 4, 5, 6
Phoenix Year 10 Students	Arrival / register 10.30am Walking Talking Mock 10.40am – 12.10pm Remote Learning (at home) Period 1, 5, 6

**Year 7, 8, 9 & 12** students will carry out remote learning at home on both dates. If their teacher is available, lessons will be 'live lessons' delivered through Google Classroom. If a teacher is not available, students will have remote learning to carry out independently which will be set via their Year Group Google Classroom page. Students should register using the Google Form at 8.30am which can also be found on the Year Group page. Students will be able to find out on Google Classroom which lessons are live and which lessons will be remote, independent work.

As with previous strike days, we will be inviting students who have a specific need or vulnerability who will benefit from onsite provision. Parents will receive communication from Mrs Langan.

Students who are eligible for free school meals can order a packed lunch for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April to be collected at the end of the school day on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Due to the fact that the strike day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May follows a Bank Holiday and a weekend, school will not be able to provide lunch packages on this occasion.

I would, again, like to offer my apologies for the disruption this may cause to families and thank you for understanding the challenges of planning for provision under uncertain conditions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Turner  
Principal