



# Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

Dear parents/carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU have declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1st February. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the union and the government and not because of any issues at our school.

The NEU have notified us of the number of our teaching staff who are members of their union. They have advised their members not to inform their schools in advance about whether or not they are taking strike action. Teachers who are on strike will not be in school to deliver lessons and will not be setting any cover work. At Sutton Girls more than half the teaching staff are members of the NEU. We therefore will not know how many or which teachers will be in school on Wednesday and have planned using the DfE guidance 'Handling strike action in schools' and risk assessing how many students we can safely supervise in school.

Our current plans are as follows and we will confirm these arrangements on Tuesday via email:

- **School will be open for students in Years 7, 11 and 13:** If their teachers are striking, students will be supervised during those lessons by members of the Senior Leadership Team and support staff in the dining room/hall/sports hall. If their teachers are in school students will attend those lessons. All students should bring work that can be completed independently (which is not reliant on IT to complete) and a book to read.
- **Students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 are to remain at home:** Students can read or complete work independently. If their teachers are striking no work will be set; if their teachers are in school they will set work on Teams by 9.10. If your child is working remotely and is eligible for free school meals, you will be able to order a packed lunch for Wednesday. Your child will be able to collect this on Tuesday from the canteen, you will receive a separate email regarding this tomorrow if your child is eligible.
- **Vulnerable students and children of critical workers who are not able to remain at home may attend school to be supervised in the library.** They will be provided with a laptop to access the work set on Teams and should also bring work that can be completed independently and a book to read.

I'm 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. The canteen will be open at breaktime and lunchtime for students who are in school. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect and kindness. Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working 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. We will review these arrangements in advance of the strike days currently planned for the 1st, 15th and 16th March and look to have other year groups in school on those days wherever possible.

If you have any questions, please email [enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk) and we will address frequently asked questions in our email on Tuesday 31st January.

Kind regards,

Dr Minards  
Headteacher

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