

24th April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**RE: STRIKE ACTION – THURSDAY 27TH APRIL AND TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2023**

You may be aware from media coverage that the teaching union, NEU, are taking industrial action, which includes strikes on the above dates. These strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and school funding.

Having been made aware of the likely numbers of staff taking strike action on the above dates, the arrangements are as follows:

<b>Thursday, 27th April (NEU strike day)</b>	Years 11 and 13 and the Year 12 BTEC Sports class <b>only</b> to attend school at the usual time in school uniform, (08:25-15:05). The school is closed to Year's 7/8/9/10 and the remainder of Year 12.
<b>Friday, 28th April</b>	All year groups to attend school at the usual time, (08:25-15:05). Year 11 will have after school intervention.
<b>Monday, 1st May</b>	Bank Holiday – school is closed.
<b>Tuesday, 2nd May (NEU strike day)</b>	Years 11 and 13 and the Year 12 BTEC Business class <b>only</b> to attend school at the usual time in school uniform, (08:25-15:05). The school is closed to Year's 7/8/9/10 and the remainder of Year 12.
<b>Wednesday, 3rd May</b>	All year groups to attend school at the usual time, (08:25-15:05). Year 11 will have after school intervention.

**All students in Years 11 and 13 should attend school at the usual time of 08:25 in school uniform on Thursday, 27th April and on Tuesday, 2nd May.** The school day will follow the usual times so pupils will finish at 15:05. A small number of Year 10 pupils are doing their GCSE modern foreign language speaking exams on Thursday, 27th April. Parents of these boys will be written to separately.

I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your son at short notice, and that he will experience disruption to his education.

Our Easter holiday food bank was a huge success and I am very pleased that families found this helpful. A similar arrangement will be put in place for the May half term and for the summer holiday. Details to follow nearer the time.

I am very pleased to share with you that I have secured some funding from Lady Gould's charity to provide for our families who are most in need with toiletries, school shoes, bedding, kitchen equipment and basic foodstuffs. If you need support with the above, please contact Lorna Jones who is our school Office Manager through [enquiries@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@sta.islington.sch.uk) or call her on the school's number (020 7561 7800).

A number of parents have contacted Justina Forrestal from 'Positive Futures' and she has provided each with confidential help with benefit applications, managing debt, applying for jobs, housing etc. Justina is able to see 2-3 people each week at the school on Wednesday afternoons.

If you would like to book a Wednesday afternoon slot with Justina, please contact her on 07778362086 or email [positivefutures@hncp.org.uk](mailto:positivefutures@hncp.org.uk). If Wednesday afternoon doesn't suit then please contact her to make alternative arrangements.

These are some grants that families can apply for through Justina or through the school. Please contact Justina or the school if you need help making your application.

- Children in Need Essentials grant:  
[https://www.familyfundservices.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CiN\\_Guidance\\_for\\_Referrers\\_Oct21.pdf](https://www.familyfundservices.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CiN_Guidance_for_Referrers_Oct21.pdf)  
Up to £300 per household for clothes, bedding, kitchen equipment etc.

Low-cost broadband deals called social tariffs (between £10 and £20 a month) are available to customers on government benefits such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Jobseeker's allowance and Income Support. Current providers include BT, EE, SMARTY, NOW, Sky, Virgin Media, KCOM, Community Fibre, Hyperoptic, G Network and VOXI. These social tariffs are usually on shorter-term contracts and there are no early exit fees. These are worth investigating to save you money.

Our Year 11's and Year 13's will start their official GCSE and A-Level exams on 15th May. A copy of your son's individualised public exam timetable has been posted to you. Please display this in a prominent place and please make sure that your son leaves your home in plenty of time to get to school each day fully equipped to sit his exams with a transparent pencil case, a supply of black pens, pencils, ruler, protractor, scientific calculator, eraser, pencil sharpener and highlighters.

Please make sure that your son looks after himself over this public exam period by making time to exercise and to eat and sleep in addition to studying. We wish all our pupils the very best in these public examinations. Please God they will reap their rewards for having worked hard.

Our next Headteacher's First Friday on-line meeting for parents will take place on Friday, 5th May from 10:00-10:30. Please contact [enquiries@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@sta.islington.sch.uk) if you would like to join this meeting.

Please contact the school regarding the support above if you need it. All requests are treated confidentially.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Paula Whyte  
Headteacher