



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

9th March 2023

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” John F Kennedy

Dear parents and carers,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

At the time of writing, the strikes called by the National Education Union (NEU) for the 15th and 16th March are still planned to go ahead.

The dispute is with the Secretary of State who has offered to meet the unions for talks, but on the condition that strike action is suspended. The union would like to see some concrete proposals on pay to ensure that the talks are purposeful, and at this stage, there is an impasse.

As I have explained previously, we have a significant number of teaching staff who are members of the NEU and may elect to withhold their labour on these days as part of the industrial dispute. The law is framed such that they are not obliged to inform the school in advance of their intentions, so there needs to be a risk assessment on how many students we can safely look after on the school site. Based upon patterns to date, we will unfortunately again have to restrict the numbers of students that can come to school on 15th and 16th March.

In planning, we have prioritised year 11 and sixth form as those closest to public exams. We have also considered the needs of our youngest students in year 7 who parents may feel cannot be left unsupervised at home.

On **Wednesday, 15 March**, students in **Years 7, 11, 12 and 13** should attend school as normal. There may be periods of the day when their normal teacher is not available and independent working will be expected (Years 7 and 11 will be supervised in the hall/canteen). Students should bring their laptops (sixth form) and Chromebooks (other years) fully charged.

For students in **Years 8, 9 and 10**, they should stay at home and undertake remote learning, following their normal timetable. Teachers who are not striking may post learning activities on Google Classroom, or students should undertake learning on the Seneca Learning platform if nothing has been set.

On **Thursday, 16 March**, students in **Years 10, 11, 12 and 13** should attend school as normal. There may be periods of the day when their normal teacher is not available and independent working will be expected (Year 10 and 11 will be supervised). Again, students should bring laptops or Chromebooks fully charged.

Head Teacher: Mr F Moane

**Ofsted
Outstanding
2021/2022**

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For students in **Years 7, 8 and 9** they should stay at home and undertake remote learning, following their normal timetable and using Google Classroom or Seneca Learning as appropriate.

As previously, we will make provision available for students in years 7-9 with SEND or are vulnerable children. We will expect the same group of students as previously, but you are able to request a place by emailing admin@hitchinboys.co.uk if you believe that your child is in need (subject to capacity.)

Children entitled to Free School Meals who are in school can access the normal meal service. For those who are at home, a packed lunch service will be available, and lunch can be picked up at the canteen anytime between 12:30 and 1:30pm

Extra-curricular clubs and sports fixtures that are hosted by teachers who are not on strike will go ahead. Please ask students to check on the day with the usual organiser of the club.

We fully appreciate that this is challenging for parents and students and we hope that the government enters into substantive negotiations with the NEU to avoid further strikes in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend students who have been patient during this time and have worked with us to continue their learning as far as possible, whether in lessons, in large group supervision sessions or learning from home.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fergal Moane', written in a cursive style.

Fergal Moane,
Head Teacher