

27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Industrial Action 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

I wrote to you last week to explain that the largest teaching union, the NEU, have declared strike action which will take place on four days over the next two months. The first of these days is next week on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

The majority of our teachers are members of the NEU, and are therefore eligible to strike if they choose to do so. Having assessed our staffing ratio and considered the implications on our students' safety and wellbeing, I have had to make the difficult decision to close the school to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The school will remain open to Year 11, vulnerable children and children of critical workers and they are expected to attend school in their full school uniform as normal. Remote learning will be available for students to access from home and more details of these digital platforms will be shared next week.

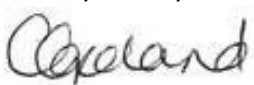
If you believe your child qualifies for a critical worker place (i.e. if in your household, **all** caregivers are 'critical workers') please contact [lellis@trafalgarschool.org.uk](mailto:lellis@trafalgarschool.org.uk) **by the end of the school day today** (3pm). This will help us to plan sufficient staffing.

We will provide a grab and go lunch option for all students who qualify for free school meals but are not in school, and these will be available to collect from Student Reception between 12:30 and 1:00pm. If you would like your child to access this, please contact [vdring@trafalgarschool.org.uk](mailto:vdring@trafalgarschool.org.uk) so our canteen staff can prepare the correct number of meals and reduce food wastage. The canteen will be open as normal to Year 11 students and those accessing a critical/vulnerable child place, albeit on a reduced offer.

Those teachers who are opting to strike have asked me to make it clear to you that they are striking against the national education policy and resourcing in schools and **not** against the school and the young people they work so hard for every day. It is not a decision that any of our teachers have come to make easily. If your child's attendance at school is restricted, it is because their teacher has opted to lose a day's pay to be able to send a message to the government that the current situation is not sustainable and change needs to happen. They know it will be an inconvenience and they are regretful in knowing it will impact others. Many of our teachers are parents themselves and so can empathise fully with the situation from your perspective.

I am grateful to our teachers for enabling me to give you advance notice of their plans to take strike action (the law says they do not have to) and I hope this will enable you to plan accordingly. I will write to you again ahead of the strike action due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March to share our plans.

Thank you for your understanding.



**Claire Copeland**  
Executive Headteacher