

18 January 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I write to update you on a number of developments in school:

1) Teachers' Industrial Action

We plan for our school to be open for all pupils on the [National Education Union's planned strike days](#) (1st February, 1st, 15th and 16th March). As we will be more heavily reliant on cover and supply teaching during the industrial action, the quality of education we provide on those days will be affected. In common with many teachers here, I am not a member of the union taking this action. I do, however, believe that the National Education Union is raising valid concerns around [real terms pay cuts](#) of around 15% since 2010 which is creating a very concerning [teacher recruitment crisis](#) in schools and I very much hope that the government moves to settle this dispute in a way which addresses the growing danger of teacher shortages. Any views may have on this issue may be shared with our local MP (gary.sambrook.mp@parliament.uk).

Please note that the situation regarding these strike days remains fluid and it is possible that we have to alter our current plans. I will keep you updated if our plans to open for all pupils have to change at any stage.

2) Year 11 Parents' Evening

The calendared Year 11 Parents' Evening clashes with the planned National Education Union industrial action on the 1st February. Therefore, we are moving the Parents' Evening to the **6th February** 4-7pm. The Year 11 Parents' Evening offers a great opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss progress toward the summer exams. Please make appoints for this face-to-face event on the [online booking system](#). **If you have made already appointments for the previous date, please rebook for the new date. Apologies for this inconvenience.**

3) Breakfast Bagels

Our stop-gap measure of providing crumpets to supplement our dwindling bagel delivery will come to an end in early February as the Magic Breakfast charity once more increases their support for this school.

4) Year 11 Saturday Morning Tutoring

The free provision of academic sessions, focusing on crossing key grade boundaries to increase pupil's likelihood of securing their favoured college or sixth form destination is a remarkable opportunity for our Year 11s. If parents were to secure private tutoring they could expect to pay around £20 per hour which would be unlikely to be delivered by a qualified teacher. Academic tutoring on a Saturday morning by their own teachers is a rare opportunity. I urge parents of Year

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones



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11 pupils to seize this opportunity for their child by emailing Mr Chesterman as soon as possible (d.chesterman@nsg.kevibham.org). The deadline for doing so for the first six-week programme is **tomorrow, the 19th January.**

5) Teacher Training Day

A reminder that our next teacher training day is 17th February. The day will be spent by teachers improving schemes of learning in department teams as we continue to improve our curriculum to enable even greater levels of success for our pupils.

6) Ian Stuart – HSBC CEO

A reminder that parents can reserve a place for their child at the talk by Ian Stuart, HSBC CEO, which takes place on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th March by following [this link](#).

Yours faithfully

Mr Neil Jones
Headteacher