



KING EDWARD VI NORTHFIELD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Educational excellence for our City

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08 February 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian

I write with a number of updates, most significantly around the further teacher strikes scheduled to take place on 1st, 15th and 16th March.

As you are aware, I made the decision to open the school for all pupils on the first day of action by the National Education Union on 1st February. It became clear in the days immediately before the 1st February that a higher number of our teachers were taking industrial action than I had previously anticipated, in addition to issues faced by a number of colleagues with children of their own [attending schools wholly closed](#). Despite the challenges involved in managing the school with sixteen colleagues absent or on strike, we managed to honour our previous commitment and avoided sending year groups home with very little notice.

1st March Teachers' Strike

National Education Union membership has continued to increase significantly within the school as colleagues have sought to show sympathy for, and act in concert with, colleagues striking in schools across the country.

Therefore, I am now planning to reduce the number of children on the school site for the next day of industrial action to ensure appropriate and safe staff-pupil ratios. We plan to prioritise the on-site education of Year 11 pupils due to their imminent exams. **In addition to Year 11s, Year 7s and Year 8s should attend school as normal on the 1st March.** If circumstances change, I will notify you as soon as I am able.

Year 9 and 10 pupils should work at home for the day, unless their parents are key-workers or if they have EHCPs or they have been invited to attend by the pastoral team for other reasons. If you are a key worker and have a child in Year 9 or 10 whom you require to be at school on 1st March please email enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org with the title '1st March'. Those Year 9 and 10 pupils working at home can access distance learning via their TEAMS accounts. Any issues accessing TEAMS can be addressed by emailing IT-support@nsg.kevibham.org. In addition, the Oak Academy continues to host [a tremendous range of online lessons](#).

Subsequent Teacher Strikes

Our plans for providing provision on 15th and 16th March will be finalised after the 1st March and I will communicate those plans to parents as soon as I am able to do so. Unfortunately, there continues to be very little obvious effort being made by the government to seek a resolution to the dispute.

Indoor Athletics Success

The Year 7 and Year 8 Indoor Athletics teams both won the District Championships at Colmers on the 16th January. Year 7 won by 21 points and Year 8 won by 30 points and both of these are amazing winning margins. Both teams now go on to represent the District at the All Birmingham Final. This is on Thursday 30th March at Birmingham University. The Year 8 team won this event when in Year 7 and they will be doing

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones



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their best to win the competition again. I would like to thank both the pupils and staff involved in this remarkable outcome.

Saturday Boosters and Clubs

The Year 11 Saturday Boosters are going extremely well, with the pupils involved commenting very positively on the additional support as they prepare for the challenges of the exams this summer. If you wish to secure a place for your child in this scheme in the future please email Mr Chesterman (d.chesterman@nsg.kevibham.org). The kindness and commitment of staff delivering the Saturday sessions is very much appreciated.

After last Saturday's absence of both the Drama and Sports coaches, the Multi-Sports Club will run as normal this Saturday. We are currently attempting to arrange alternative staffing for Saturday Drama as we anticipate our excellent Drama coach, Miss Crossley being absent for some weeks. We will send a Parent mail to parents of children who attend the Saturday Drama Club on Friday to confirm arrangements. The Tuesday and Thursday Drama Clubs will continue to be run by our teachers during Miss Crossley's absence.

Year 7 Parents Evening

The face-to-face Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 16th February. Please book appointments via the [website](#). Please note that Mrs Tucker (Teacher of Graphics) will not be in attendance.

Access to Computers

The IT Team are updating our information about which children may lack access to a computer at home as part of a strategy to increase access by loaning out devices as we did during the pandemic. Please follow [this link to complete a brief survey](#). Please prioritise doing so if your child does not currently have access to a computer at home.

Lettings Roles

We will be advertising two new job roles as we prepare to take our site lettings in-house. Please have a look on our vacancies page on the school website if you may be interested.

Teacher Day Reminder

Friday 17th February is one of our calendared statutory teacher days. In addition to statutory fire training, staff will be working on retrieval practice techniques as we continue to develop our teaching to best support pupils. As ever, apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Yours sincerely

Mr Neil Jones
Headteacher