

03 March 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian

1) Reported mugging in West Heath Park

A parent has shared with us that a boy was mugged in West Heath Park by a group of boys / young men, stealing his phone, coat and trainers yesterday evening. The parent also shared a social media post with us about a similar incident at West Heath Terminus. As many of our pupils travel home via these routes, I thought it worthwhile sharing with parents to enable you to consider alternative travel arrangements.

I will raise this issue with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team and feedback to you with any news or progress.

2) NEU Industrial Action (15th and 16th March)

As we face a further two strike days on 15th and 16th March, we are seeing the impact of the rapid growth of the National Education Union nationally reflected in our school. We anticipate perhaps 60% or more of our teachers to be taking industrial action on these days as they seek redress for over a decade of below inflation pay raises and a worsening teacher recruitment crisis. This necessitates a further reduction in our provision on these days.

Years 8, 9 and 10 will work from home and Year 7 and Year 11 should attend as normal. I am keenly aware that some year groups are being repeatedly impacted and apologise for this. Our rationale is to prioritise those pupils just weeks away from their GCSEs and the youngest children in the school due to safeguarding considerations.

If you are a key worker and have a child in Years 8, 9 or 10 whom you require to be at school on 15th or 16th March please email enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org with the title '15th / 16th March'. Those Year 8, 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](#).

3) New Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We have a new Cricket Club starting on Mondays from 3.15 to 4.00pm. We have secured a professional coach from Warwickshire County Cricket Club to run these sessions. It would be great

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones

to see lots of pupils attend.

We have also secured the services of a second Drama Coach, which means that when our normal Drama Coach, Miss Crossley, is back next week we will be able to cater for larger numbers of pupils for each of the three clubs, that the clubs will not face cancellation in the event of staff absence and that we can restart the Saturday Drama Club this Saturday at 9.30am. On Saturday, the excellent Multi-Sports Club will also be running in addition to our Year 11 Maths, English and Science Saturday Boosters – joined from Saturday by a French Year 11 Booster. All from 9.30am.

4) National Tutoring Programme

We are deeply impressed by the number of parents and pupils who have expressed an interest in the after-school National Tutoring Programme sessions. With over 170 expressions of interest for the 90 places, we will be taking immediate steps to secure additional tutoring capacity to try and meet this demand. Ms Elliot will be in touch in due course.

5) Overwhelming number of applications for Year 7 September 2023

Many families will be aware that lots of parents of Year 6s in the area have not been able to secure a place with us for September. Whilst it is great to be popular, we appreciate how upsetting and unsettling this will be for the children in question. Unfortunately, the size of our building means we lack the capacity to increase our number of places without damaging the quality of our provision for our existing pupils.

6) New Library Restock

Our School Library has seen a huge increase in lending over the last year or so. This has meant that shelves have become less full than pupils may wish due to the number of books on loan. I am pleased that we have been able to allocate a further £2400 to purchase new books to support our hundreds of enthusiastic readers.

Yours faithfully



Mr Neil Jones
Headteacher