

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents

**Notification of strike action on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

We have been informed by **NEU Trade Union** that there will be a day of strike action by their teacher members on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**. The dispute is with the Secretary of State for Education with regards to the NEU view that there has been a '*Failure to provide a fully funded above-inflation pay rise (as measured by September 2022 RPI). A fully funded pay rise is one that is funded by additional resources sufficient to provide the above-inflation pay rise*' (NEU).

Having set a draft budget for this financial year 2023-2024, I can tell you that following the pay rise which was implemented in 2022 (and if teachers were to receive a 5% increase this year), we are £40,000 short in this year's budget to cover it. We will be relying very heavily on funds from The Friends to support the school in purchasing curriculum resources and without sufficient government funding there will be dire consequences in the future for affording salaries and huge utility bills.

As Headteacher, and in consultation with the Chair of Governors, I have assessed the impact of the strike action on the school and have decided we will be **OPEN to all classes on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, but we will be CLOSED to all classes on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.**

This decision has not been taken lightly and we regret having to take this action but on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, there will not be sufficient staff in school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the pupils.

Remote learning will not be provided by the teachers. However, you can access <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year> which has a large range of lessons for all year groups and subjects which children can access at home.

Our sincere apologies for the difficulties that these arrangements will cause parents and carers but unfortunately these are circumstances beyond our control.

The school will open as normal on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April and then from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Baptiste  
Headteacher