



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs H Frost-Briggs** BA (Hons)



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Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Mr M Kirkland** BSc (Hons)
Assistant Headteacher: **Mr S Kingsland** BSc (Hons)

26 January 2023

Dear parents/carers,

RE: NEU Strike Action

As you may be aware from the media, the National Education Union (NEU) has announced that its ballot of members has met the required threshold for industrial action. Teaching members of staff who are in the NEU will have the option to strike. This strike action has been declared by the NEU for 1st February, 1st March, 15th and 16th March.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the Secretary of State regarding teachers' pay and is not against the school in any way.

It is my responsibility, as Head Teacher, to now minimise the impact of this strike action on the children and their education and to place their safeguarding as paramount. I should highlight to parents and carers that this is hard to navigate given that teachers are not obliged to tell me if they are striking or not. This makes planning for the day extremely difficult and we have to be confident in our plans to keep all children safe who are coming into school.

As there is a significant number of NEU members at The Ripley Academy, this will mean partial school closure on Wednesday 1st February. **The school will be open to Year 11 and Year 13 only.** All students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be expected to complete a programme of remote curriculum lessons from home, which the school will be providing through Satchel One. Year 12 will be directed to complete work at home towards their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), with further support and guidance available on Satchel One.

Year 13 will complete a day of directed study in the Sixth Form Centre under adult supervision.

Year 11 will follow a "Preparation for GCSE" drop-down day; a carousel of maths, science and wellbeing activities to best prepare them for the forthcoming examinations. Students will need to bring their PE kit into school with them.

The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ

If your child receives free-school meals and is not scheduled to be in school on this day now, you will be able to order and pick up a packed lunch for your child, should you require it. If you would like to do this, please ring the main reception on 01773 746334 prior to 3pm on Monday 30th January.

After the 1st February, I will evaluate the day with my Senior Leadership Team as we plan for the other potential dates given by the NEU for strike action. We will endeavour to provide as robust and comprehensive an education as we possibly can in these difficult circumstances.

I am sorry about the disruption to your child's education. I do recognise how challenging and indeed frustrating this may be for parents/carers and I remain hopeful that this dispute between Unions and the Government can be resolved quickly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Frost-Briggs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Helen Frost-Briggs

Executive Head Teacher