



24 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **National Strike Action in Schools, Thursday, 2 March 2023 Partial Closure of Ivybridge Community College**

I write to confirm the plans in preparation for the second day of strike action declared by the National Education Union (NEU), scheduled to take place on **Thursday, 2 March 2023**.

We appreciate that this is another day of disruption to the education of your child as a result of the national strikes and we thank you for your patience during this period.

In the event of a strike, the Department for Education requires the Headteacher to take all reasonable steps to keep schools open for as many students as possible, whilst ensuring staff and students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

A risk assessment has been conducted and due to the anticipated increase on the impact of staffing and the difficulty of sourcing cover teachers, the decision has been made that **Ivybridge Community College will remain open for students in Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 only.**

We strongly encourage all students in **Years 12 and 13** to attend College as normal on Thursday, 2 March 2023 where they will follow their normal timetable for the day as far as possible. However, we appreciate that there may be instances when their teachers are not in College and we therefore recommend that students are prepared to complete independent learning in the event that a lesson does not go ahead.

As a result of the strike action, Year 12 Parents' Evening scheduled for Thursday, 2 March 2023 will now take place on Thursday, 11 May 2023.

For students in **Year 11**, all scheduled mocks examinations will go ahead as planned (History – am and Geography – pm). When students are not in their mock examinations they will be expected to attend their timetabled lessons. If any Year 11 teachers are absent, centralised study support sessions will be running throughout the day with staff supervision. Year 11 students should come to College prepared for their mock examinations and with the appropriate resources for their normal lessons.

**College transport and catering** will run as normal for all students.

**Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will study remotely at home.** All tasks will be released via epraise on Thursday morning.

**Vulnerable and SEND students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are able to attend College with a bespoke timetable for the day.** If you are a parent/carer of a vulnerable or SEND child we will contact you separately to confirm whether or not you require your child to attend or if you would prefer to supervise them working from home. Mrs Newman (SENDCo) can be contacted via [anewman@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:anewman@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) should you have any queries about SEND in the meantime.

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**For students in Years 7, 8, 9 or 10 who are eligible for free school meals**, an electronic voucher representing the cost of a school meal will be emailed to parents on Wednesday, 1 March 2023.

**For students on site on Thursday, 2 March 2023:**

- **All students should adhere to uniform and conduct expectations** – the Standards and Expectations Behaviour Policy still applies and all aspects of the College continue as normal.
- **All students in Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 must attend College** and absence will be followed up in the usual way. In the event of illness, please report your child's absence through the usual channels.
- **Break and lunchtimes will operate as normal** with appropriate supervision in place.
- **Arrangements for registration will be communicated in advance to those Year Groups in attendance on the day.**
- **Catering will run as normal.**
- **All extra-curricular clubs are cancelled on Thursday, 2 March.**

We appreciate that industrial action is disruptive and you may need to change your plans or working arrangements whilst this action is ongoing. We will of course continue to monitor the arrangements in place and make modifications where possible to improve support for students wherever we can reasonably do so. If the strike action is called off, we will confirm this as soon as we can and, in this eventuality, the College will be open as usual to all students.

The NEU has indicated that they will continue strike action for a further two days after this strike on: Wednesday, 15 March 2023, and Thursday, 16 March 2023. Please make a note of these dates now and I will write to you in advance of each date to confirm any changes to arrangements and whether the strike is going ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and patience whilst we navigate this challenging situation.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**