



10 March 2023

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

National Strike Action in Schools, Wednesday, 15 March and Thursday, 16 March 2023 Partial Closure of Ivybridge Community College

I write to confirm our plans for the final two days of strike action which have been announced for **Wednesday, 15** and **Thursday, 16 March 2023**.

We appreciate that this is further disruption to the education of your child and we once again 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 specific Year Groups only.**

The decision to allow one other Year Group alongside the Year 12 and 13 students, as well as a small number of more vulnerable students, to attend the College site, is based on ensuring that staff and students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. The level of supervision required for post-16 students is not as high as that required for students in Years 7-11; Sixth Form students are able to work independently in a classroom or private study space, even if their teacher is not present. This is not the case for other students who would need adult supervision during all five of their teaching blocks, regardless of whether the teacher is striking or not. If the teacher is striking, no subject specific work would be set and other teachers cannot be compelled to provide cover for the absent teacher during industrial action.

I am particularly mindful of the impact of partial College closure on students who are nearing external examinations. However, when making this decision I have considered the pattern of absence from staff over the previous two strike days and the resulting high risk of significant disruption to lessons on Wednesday, 15 and Thursday, 16 March 2023.

On **Wednesday, 15 March 2023**, the College will remain open for students in **Years 8, 12 and 13**. **All other Year Groups will follow Remote Learning from home.**

On **Thursday, 16 March 2023**, the College will remain open for students in **Years 11, 12 and 13**. **All other Year Groups will follow Remote Learning from home.**

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Please see the table below for specific details of plans for each day.

Year Group	Wednesday, 15 March 2023	Thursday, 16 March 2023
7	Students off-site Remote Learning tasks set via epraise.	Students off-site Remote Learning tasks set via epraise.
8	Students on-site Students should report straight to the Dining Hall for Assembly. Normal lessons will take place as far as possible. Students to report to the Dining Hall if their lesson is unable to go ahead. Specific activities will be provided with senior members of staff.	Students off-site Remote Learning tasks set via epraise.
9	Students off-site Remote Learning tasks set via epraise.	Students off-site Remote Learning tasks set via epraise.
10	Students off-site Remote Learning tasks set via epraise.	Students off-site Remote Learning tasks set via epraise.
11	Students off-site Live lessons to take place via MS Teams where teachers are available. All students are expected to log in and attend. Students should check epraise in the morning for confirmation of which live lessons are taking place. When live lessons are unable to take place, specific work will be set for Core subjects via epraise for students to complete throughout the day.	Students on-site Students should report straight to the Dining Hall for Assembly. Normal lessons will take place as far as possible. Students to report to the Dining Hall if their lesson is unable to go ahead. Specific revision activities will be provided with senior members of staff.
Sixth Form	Students on-site Normal lessons will take place as far as possible. Students to report to their usual study spaces if their lesson is unable to go ahead.	

We strongly encourage all students in **Years 12 and 13** to attend College as normal on both days, where they will follow their normal timetable for the day as far as possible. However, we appreciate that there will 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.

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

Vulnerable and SEND students in all Years Groups 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 should you have any queries about SEND in the meantime.

For students in Years 7 to 11 who are eligible for free school meals, an electronic voucher representing the cost of a school meal will be emailed to parents for use on the morning of any day(s) they are not in College due to strike action.

For students on-site on Wednesday, 15 and/or Thursday, 16 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 (Thursday, 16 March only), Year 8 (Wednesday, 15 March only), and 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.**
- **All extra-curricular clubs are cancelled on both Wednesday, 15 and Thursday, 16 March 2023.**
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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. We hope that these will be the final two days of strike action.

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

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal