



April 2023

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

## **National Strike Action in Schools on Thursday, 27 April and Tuesday, 2 May 2023 Partial Closure of Ivybridge Community College**

I write to confirm our plans for the two days of strike action which have been announced for **Thursday, 27 April** and **Tuesday, 2 May 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 the decision has been made that **Ivybridge Community College will remain open for Year 11 and Year 13 students only** as well as a small number of more vulnerable students.

We are particularly mindful of the impact of partial College closure on students who are nearing external examinations. The NEU also recognises the close proximity of the strike days to public examinations and has provided schools and members with dispensation guidance to minimise disruption to Year 11 and Year 13 examination preparation; however, outside of those specific Year Groups, no further dispensation provision is being made. In light of the additional guidance provided by the NEU, we may experience higher numbers of staff on-site; however, it remains the case that staff cannot be compelled to set work or provide cover for absent teachers during industrial action or for NEU members to carry out activities and duties beyond the scope of the dispensation guidance.

We can confirm that the Textiles examination for Year 11 students scheduled on Thursday, 27 April 2023 will continue as planned.

**Year 11 and Year 13** students will follow their normal timetable for the day as far as possible. However, we appreciate that there still may be instances when we are unable to provide specialist teachers due to the strike action and we therefore recommend that students are prepared to complete independent learning in the event that a lesson does not go ahead.

For students in **Years 7 – 10**, remote learning tasks will be set via epraise on the morning of each strike day. **Year 12** students should complete independent learning tasks from home.

**Invited vulnerable and SEND students in all Years Groups are able to attend College with a bespoke timetable for the day.** 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.

**For students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 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 Thursday, 27 April and Tuesday, 2 May 2023:**

- **College transport** will run as normal for all students.

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- **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 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 Thursday, 27 April and Tuesday, 2 May 2023.**

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**