

20 January 2023

**Re: Industrial Action; INSET days and Bank Holiday; Examination Entries**

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am writing to update you on several matters linked to students' attendance at school, and also an update about examination entries.

1. Industrial action by the NEU

You may have seen in the news that the National Education Union has voted to take industrial action over the next 2 months. Most of the teachers in school are members of the NEU so this action may well affect us on **Wednesday 1st February, Tuesday 28th February, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March**. As things stand **we still plan to open the school and expect students to attend on all these dates**. Members of the school administration and leadership teams will be in school to ensure that students are safe and supervised and have access to academic and pastoral support. We are fortunate that our students are extremely well behaved and very capable of supporting each other's independent learning, so there is plenty of benefit to be had by bringing students into school even when most teachers are unavailable. I am also conscious that school is a safe and warm place for students to study, and by keeping school open we can prevent the need for families to heat their homes during the day when everyone might normally be out of the house. I appreciate that students travelling a considerable distance to school and those who need to supervise younger siblings may need to study at home instead. If this is the case they should use the normal form for requesting a day's absence, and present it to me or Dave Hemsley for signing.

2. INSET day on 27th January

School will be closed on **Friday 27th January** so that staff can attend a training event in Preston (at the [Lancaster University School of Mathematics](#)) which brings together the staff of all 4 specialist maths schools in England. This is published on our [term dates web page](#) but I don't think I have mentioned it in previous newsletters: my apologies for this omission. Students will have plenty of work to complete on this date.

3. May Bank Holidays

The government has announced that there will be an additional Bank Holiday on May 8th this year, to mark the coronation of King Charles III. School will therefore be closed on both **Monday 1st May** (for the usual Early May Bank Holiday) and **Monday 8th May** (Coronation Bank Holiday). More details about bank holidays can be found [here](#) on the gov.uk website.

4. Examination Entries

We are currently in the process of entering **Year 13** for A-Level Examinations and Year 12 for AS Examinations. Students will be given copies of their statements of entry to check and it is important that

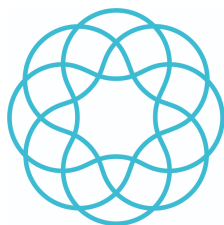
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they inform the school office of anything that does not match their expectations as soon as possible so that corrections can be made.

Our policy for **Year 12** AS entries is as follows:

All Year 12 students will be entered for AS Examinations in Physics and Computer Science (unless we have already agreed with them that they are not proceeding with one of these subjects). We do not normally enter Year 12 for any AS Mathematics or Further Mathematics examinations as we expect them all to complete full A-Levels in these subjects.

Students should be aware that they will need to submit their AS grades in their UCAS applications. If we believe that students may not perform well in their AS examinations then we will discuss this with them. Students can be withdrawn from AS without incurring any costs for the school provided this is done before the Easter break. Where it is clear that a student is definitely continuing with either physics or computer science to A-level then it may not be necessary for them to take the AS exams - we recommend that students discuss this with their subject teachers and form tutor if they have any doubts about taking the AS examinations.

We're starting to put together the February newsletter so you will hear more from school soon. We will also be sending out our annual survey for parents and students which is a crucial part of our school development process, so please look out for that email.

In the meantime if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please do get in touch.

Kind regards

Damian Haigh  
Headteacher

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