

25th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Industrial strike action

I am writing to you with an update around the ballots on industrial action and what this means for our academy. The National Education Union (NEU), National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) and National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) held ballots of their members on industrial action. Following these votes, members of the NEU across England have decided to strike.

The NAHT and the NASUWT strikes will not be proceeding as not enough members voted. However, there is a chance that these ballots will be held again, which we will update you on if there is any change.

Please note that the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions in addition to the wider state of education funding, not because of any specific issues at Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy where all colleagues diligently and passionately go about their business of serving this wonderful school community.

Strikes are planned to take place on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

I'm getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning is likely to be disrupted on these dates. At this stage we are considering several options. As you will know, we are only able to open the school if we have a sufficient number of staff to keep everyone safe. Whilst I am not yet in a position to confirm final arrangements for the opening of the school on the 1st February (and subsequent strike dates), please start to think about alternative childcare arrangements.

In the event we are not able to fully open, the Department for Education has requested that we prioritise Year 11 students and those considered vulnerable, we will make every effort to do this.

I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating but know that all members of the school community will continue to treat each other with respect and demonstrate understanding.

I will write to you as soon as possible with clear details of our plans for next Wednesday (1st February).

Thank you once again for your understanding,

Mr Simon Leach

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Leach', with a stylized, cursive script.

Principal
Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy