



# SIR THOMAS BOTELER

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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Dear Parents/Carers

You may be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) has announced that its teaching members are to take strike action on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March in protest over the lack of funding in education. Teaching members of the NEU have therefore been instructed by their union not to attend for work on these dates.

As school we are not allowed to know who will or will not be striking on those days, which as you can appreciate is difficult to navigate when you have 800 young people to consider. I am allowed to know the numbers of teachers in the NEU and unfortunately, it is over half my teaching workforce.

There are strict rules around what I can and cannot ask teachers who are in on that day to do. For example, they are not allowed to cover for any teacher that is absent due to the strike action. Therefore, I can not ask a teacher to cover a class that they are not timetabled for. As you can appreciate, the logistics are incredibly difficult to manage, as there is a real unknown to the day.

We have been working hard on plans behind the scenes to see what is and is not feasible. Unfortunately, I have had to come to the decision from a safeguarding point of view, that I will only be able to keep the school open on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 for Year 10, Year 11, the Designated Provision and those students who access and have interventions in the Progress Hub (any year group). This therefore means that Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 (KS3) students will be doing project-based learning on the Personal Development curriculum from home. There will be detailed plans around what they are going to be doing communicated out in the next few days.

I know that you may be thinking if the teachers could possibly stream the lessons, but unfortunately that will not be a possibility because I will have an unknown as to who or who is not striking. Therefore, this may cause more confusion and disruption for your child. Also, those who are striking are not allowed to set any cover work. Therefore, the Personal



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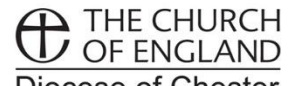
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Development Curriculum work will be set by the Senior Leadership Team and there will be absolutely clarity about what your child has to do on that day. I know how difficult it is when a child has to work from home and I know how much you appreciate direction and clear information so you can support too.

Year 10 and 11 are going to follow a meaningful alternative timetable for the day, just because I have to build the day around knowing who is and is not available. The students will definitely be taught English, Maths and Science and will also be doing some work around revision and independent study in preparation for their GCSE examinations. There will also be an opportunity for those young people who need support with their College applications, they will receive 1 to 1 guidance throughout the day.

All students who are in school on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, will be expected to attend school in full uniform, with a bag, equipment etc as normal. However, Year 10 students will need to attend school in full Boteler PE kit. Any variations on this kit, will not be accepted and you will receive a call to support us in rectifying it or to bring their school uniform in for them to wear.

I know and understand that this situation is far from ideal for your child and I would really appreciate if you worked with us on this as best as you can. I know this will cause disruption to you too and I sincerely apologise. However, I really hope you understand my position. I have to be able to ensure that we are able to safeguard every young person on site and I can only do that if I have enough teachers.

Following the strike on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, I will have a better idea of which staff I will have available for the remaining Strike days and therefore, may be able to be fully open, which would be my aim.

The Senior Leadership Team, the Pastoral Staff, Teaching and Business Support staff will all be in school and available as normal and please feel free to contact anyone of us if you need anything.



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As the students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are working from home on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, we appreciate that some of these young people may be in receipt of Free School Meals. Therefore, we will provide a lunch package for them. It would be really helpful if you could let us know if you will be taking us up on this offer, so we can have the lunch package ready and waiting for you to pick up from school. It also helps minimise waste, as I do not want to throw any food away. Please email [fsm@boteler.org.uk](mailto:fsm@boteler.org.uk) with your child's name by January 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 if you need a Free School Meal please. The lunch packages will be ready to collect on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 from reception at 12 noon.

### On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

#### Designated Provision Students

The students need to go straight to the DP

#### Year 10 (Boteler PE Kit)

Please inform the students to line up outside school as normal and then they will be taken to the Ball Hall to be registered.

#### Year 11 (Full school uniform)

Please inform students that they do not need to attend at 8.10am on that day. Please tell them to arrive for an 8.25am start and that they are to line up outside. We will then bring them in to the Hall to be registered.

#### Progress Hub (Full school uniform)

If your child accesses the Progress Hub please let Mr Leonard know [jleonard@boteler.org.uk](mailto:jleonard@boteler.org.uk)

#### KS3 Students (Non-uniform as they are at home)

Your child will work from home, with their structured Personal Development work plans during the normal school hours.



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There will be more information to follow and if there is anything at all that I can do to help or support then please just email me directly [bscott-herron@boteler.org.uk](mailto:bscott-herron@boteler.org.uk)

Thank you so much for your patience, understanding and support. I will be in contact in the coming days.

Yours faithfully

Beverley Scott-Herron  
**Headteacher**



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