



27 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Planned Industrial Action by the National Education Union (NEU)

You will probably be aware from recent media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action, which will take place on the following dates:

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

The strikes are part of the formal trade dispute between the NEU and the government regarding teacher recruitment and retention, including pay, and not because of any issues at Stafford Manor High School.

The problems in teacher recruitment and retention are real and evident in schools across the country. The target for the recruitment of new secondary school teachers was missed this year, with only 59% of the target met.

This is the ninth year out of the last ten that the recruitment target has been missed and it does make it highly challenging for all schools to recruit specialist teachers in most areas of the curriculum.

At the heart of industrial action lies the firm belief by members of the NEU that such action will hopefully affect change and improvements to the education of all children.

School leaders and governors at Stafford Manor High School appreciate the inconvenience that closing the school may cause and we are doing everything we can to remain open.

We are planning to be open for all students on each day of industrial action.

There is no obligation for teachers to notify us of their intention to strike but at present, from the information we have received from teachers at Stafford Manor High School, we have adequate staffing levels to remain open.

However, there may be the need to close the school for some, or all year groups, should more teachers from Stafford Manor High School wish to join to the NEU to support the planned industrial action.

Should we need to take the unfortunate decision to close on of the days shown above, we will inform you as soon as possible each morning via text and email. We will also update the website each day too with any planned changes to being open.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Rhys Adams
Headteacher

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