



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Industrial Action by the NEU – Thursday 2nd March

I wrote to you earlier this week regarding the series of industrial action by members of the National Education Union (NEU). This action is in connection with a national dispute with the Secretary of State for Education over pay and conditions, and funding - not against any individual school.

After assessing the risk of the situation based on anticipated staff numbers, I am writing to inform you that the **school will only be open to Year 11 and Year 13 students, together with a small number of our most vulnerable students who will be contacted directly over the coming days.**

Year 11 students should be in school from 9.30am when they will have an assembly in the hall ahead of lessons or where teachers are not in they will be able to work through a range of independent study materials in a computer room where appropriate support will be provided. **Attendance for Year 11 is compulsory and essential at this stage of their course.**

Year 13 students should be in school from 11.10am where they will attend lessons where teachers will be in and for other lessons they should be in the Hub for supervised study. A limited number of students will be invited into school for Period 1 where we know teachers are in school.

School will be closed to students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Teachers that are not taking strike action will be in school and will be leading live lessons via Teams or setting work via Satchel One. Please ask your child to access Satchel One at 8.30am to see the work for the day. All of the information for lessons will be provided on Satchel One as a first port of call. Staff who are hosting live lessons on Teams will publish instructions via Satchel One. To access a live lesson, students should open their Teams calendar and click to join the live lesson at the start. Students should have their camera off at all times and turn on their microphone when instructed to do so by teachers. Any work that needs to be submitted should be done by following teacher instructions during the lesson.

Students can also access a range of web-based resources that support the curriculum which can be found on our website though the 'student independent learning' tab or by accessing it here <https://www.cdarwin.com/page/?title=Student+Independent+Learning&pid=403> Teachers that are taking strike action are withdrawing labour and are therefore under no obligation to set any work, although some may choose to set work for their Year 11 or 13 classes.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with mutual respect.

If your child receives a free school meal and would like to have one on Thursday 2nd March this can be collected from school between 11.30 and 13.00. However the catering providers will need to know in advance by emailing charlesdarwin@harrisoncatering.co.uk at least 24 hours before. Please include the name of the child/children in the e-mail.

Charles Darwin School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

I will update you on arrangements for the other proposed days of industrial action in due course. These dates are:

- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aston Smith', written in a cursive style.

Aston Smith
Headteacher