



10th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Industrial Action by the NEU – Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16nd March

I am writing to provide an update on arrangements in school on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March with regards to the industrial action by members of the National Education Union (NEU). As previously shared, 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.**

If your child is in Year 11 or Year 13, please could check the tables below and overleaf carefully for specific arrangements for when they come into school.

YEAR 11

Year 11 students must attend registration at 9.30am in the school hall on both 15th and 16th March, unless otherwise stated in the tables below.

Wednesday 15th March

Group	Arrangements	Details
All Year 11 Students	Onsite - 9.30am registration in main school hall.	At 9.45 all students will sit their Maths Paper 3: Calculator exam. The exam will last 1 hour and 30 minutes. This exam was originally scheduled to take place on 8th March but did not take place due to weather conditions which resulted in school closure. For the remainder of the day students will either have lessons or supervised private study periods

Thursday 16th March

Group	Arrangements	Details
11Q1 (Triple Science) Students	Onsite - 9.30am registration in school canteen	At 9.45 students will sit their science exam. This exam was originally scheduled to take place on Wednesday 15 th March. For the remainder of the day students will either have lessons or supervised private study periods
GCSE PE Cycling Trip Students	Offsite (School Trip) - 8.00am Meet at school	Students will leave school by minibus at 8:30am and are expected to arrive back at school at approximately 3:30pm. The PE department will send out further information nearer the time.
All other students who are not sitting the Science exam or attending the GCSE PE Cycling Trip	Onsite - 9.30am registration in main school hall.	Students will either have lessons or supervised private study periods

Please could you ensure that your child brings revision materials and past papers to complete in the supervised study lessons where their teacher is absent.

Attendance for Year 11 is compulsory and essential at this stage of their course.

YEAR 13

All Year 13 students must attend registration at 9.30am in the Sixth Form Hub on 15th and 16th March.

Wednesday 15th March

Group	Arrangements	Details
All Year 13 Students	Onsite - 9.30am registration in Sixth Form Hub.	Students should attend their classes as usual if their teacher is in school. If the teacher is not in school they will have supervised study.

Thursday 16th March

Group	Arrangements	Details
All Year 13 Students	Onsite - 9.30am registration in Sixth Form Hub.	Students should attend their classes as usual if their teacher is in school. If the teacher is not in school they will have supervised study.

Please could you ensure that your child brings revision materials and past papers to complete in the supervised study lessons where their teacher is absent.

Attendance for Year 13 is compulsory and essential at this stage of their course.

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 on these days of industrial action 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 Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th 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

Yours sincerely,



Aston Smith
Headteacher