



# Castledon School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## Strike action by members of the National Education Union

Following on from my communication last month, I would like to inform you of the arrangements for the school day on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, when the second of the national teacher strikes will take place.

I would like to remind parents and carers that the national strikes are happening because of a dispute between the unions and the Government and not because of any issues relating to Castledon School.

Unfortunately, I have had to take the very difficult decision to close the school to selected classes on 1<sup>st</sup> March. This is due to staff striking but also staff that have dependents that are of school age and their schools are closed. The safety of our pupils is paramount, and we have a duty to ensure that we can provide a safe and secure learning environment for them.

## The following classes will be closed and learners will not be in school and are to remain at home:

- Hadleigh
- Wigmore
- Hedingham
- Hever
- Stirling
- Warwick

There is no requirement for NEU to inform us of which members of staff will take action in advance, however with the information I have been given to date, the closure of the above classes is unavoidable. Clearly this is a difficult situation and I appreciate that industrial action is disruptive and you may need to change your plans or working arrangements whilst this action is ongoing.

I would strongly encourage parents and carers to keep checking emails and the school website as it is always possible circumstances could change at short notice due to staffing numbers.

Transport providers have been notified of the above class closures, however it may be beneficial for you to communicate this too with your child's driver. If your child usually receives a free school meal, our finance team will be in touch with a voucher for this day. After school clubs that usually take place on a Wednesday will also be cancelled.

We will only know what the full impact of the strike action has on our school on the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> March. We are working closely with union representatives in order to keep up to date with the situation, and I will keep you informed of any further or future developments with as much notice as possible. I would however strongly suggest that all parents/carers consider making alternative child care arrangements for this day as a precaution as things may change at very short notice.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Very best wishes

*S Holliday*

Simon Holliday  
Headteacher

