



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Tuesday 18th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Partial School Closure on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

As you will be aware, further days of industrial action were published over the Easter break by the NEU, set to take place on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May.

Firstly, the Year 8 Parents' Evening on Thursday 27th WILL go ahead, with details published shortly.

Our plans for both days remain the same as the last two days of action in March, with a reminder of how we will provide work for students as follows:

- Year 11 lessons will be taught as normal – students should attend.
- Sixth form lessons will be taught as normal – students should attend.
- Live lessons over MS Teams will be delivered to students working from home, where staff are present in school.
- No live lessons will be delivered where staff are absent on the day(s).
- Students unable to complete live lessons from home can collect a pack of written work from the Pastoral Hub from Monday 24th April. This will cover both days of strike action.
- Vulnerable students and children of critical workers attending on-site learning will be supported to complete live-lessons, as if they were working from home.

A reminder of who should attend on-site learning:

- **Year 11 students**
- **Sixth Form students**
- Vulnerable students (parental choice, as per guidelines in my previous letter)
- Children of Critical Workers (parental choice, as per guidelines in my previous letter)

If you feel that your child is eligible to attend because they belong to one of the 2 key groups (Vulnerable or Children of Critical Workers) please complete this survey [here](#) to let me know whether they will be attending. Deadline for completion is 9.00am Tuesday 25th April.

All other students (Years 7-10) should remain at home on this day.

Arrangements for Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

All school transport is running as normal for students that would usually use it.

Year 11

- Normal lessons (their existing timetable) will continue as planned.
- Students must wear school uniform and bring PE kit if required.
- The Food Hall remains open as usual at break and lunch.

Sixth Form

- Normal lessons (their existing timetable) will continue as planned.
- The Food Hall remains open as usual at break and lunch.



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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman



Vulnerable Students and Children of Critical Workers

- Parents intending to send their child in must complete the survey, **linked above**.
- Lessons are the same as those set for Years 7-10, not able to attend on the day.
- Students will be supported to complete the live lessons running.
- The Food Hall remains open as usual at break and lunch.

Students in Years 7-10

- Students in Years 7-10 will be working from home for both days.
- Students will follow their existing timetable.
- Students will be taught live lessons over MS Teams from their usual teacher, unless their teacher is absent.
- Additional work (self-study) can be completed if required by using this link to access the material previously issued – the document contains a range of lessons for the subjects listed: [Partial Closure – additional work for students](#)

Q: What should I do if my child cannot access MS TEAMS?

We will provide a pack of written work for students to complete.

Packs can be collected at breaktime and lunchtime from the Pastoral Hub, from Monday 24th April.

Work supplied can be completed over both days of strike action.

It is the student's responsibility (prompted/supported by parents) to make sure they have collected written work ahead of the strike days, if it is needed.

We will ask students to sign for work collected, enabling us to monitor students accessing learning in this way.

Full consideration has been given to the level of staff absence we are likely to experience, and pending any further unforeseen circumstances, we will have adequate staff onsite and in-post during the day to ensure the safety and well-being of those attending.

If for any reason this should change on the day, then I and the senior team will conduct a risk assessment and may need to make changes to the planned onsite curriculum to ensure we are still able to maintain a quality of education, without compromising on safety.

It is important to explain again that industrial action is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions of employment, and not because of any issues specifically relating to our school, and the staff at Wadham School remain grateful to you – our parents and carers, as we work together to minimise the impact of disruption caused.

I have included with this letter a copy of the FAQs sent previously regarding how lessons will be conducted remotely, as well as general expectations to help families prepare for next Thursday and the following Tuesday.

Do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas
Headteacher

Live Lessons 27th April and 2nd May 2023 – FAQs

How will students know which lessons are running each day?

Staff choosing to strike are under no obligation to inform their employer, meaning that we cannot assume attendance and must wait until each day of action to see who does attend school to work. This means that we are unable to inform parents which lessons will definitely take place, but hope that for the large majority of students, they will experience a number of live lessons with their teacher.

We have asked staff attending to share a link to their lesson in the Teams channel for their class. This will be posted as a message to alert students that the lesson is taking place, with a hyperlink that joins them to the live lesson.

The image below is an example of this – this was my link sent to 7RD German for our live lesson in March.



Students should click on the link, where they will then be admitted to the lesson by the teacher. Tutors are briefing students tomorrow and I would suggest students (and parents) monitor the Teams channels for their classes as I would expect staff attending to be posting these links over the next few days.

What is the format of live lessons? How will my child be taught?

The class teacher will be available to respond to questions from students throughout the lesson.

The structure we are using is the 10-40-10 model.

- Teachers will deliver a 10min introduction to the group,
- then give them roughly 40mins to complete the task(s) set,
- then bring the class back together for feedback in the final 10mins.
- During the main body of the lesson, cameras and microphones will be off and muted, with the teacher directing students to raise questions and make comments using the 'raise hand' and 'chat' features in Teams – this provides help and support for everyone participating.
- Teachers will remain online throughout the lesson to answer questions raised and give support/guidance if needed.

Work may be set as an assignment so that students can complete and return it to their teacher.

What are the expectations regarding behaviour for live learning?

We understand that live learning can seem daunting. Staff will be adapting lessons to make them accessible to students. We ask that all students join the lesson with their camera on, but mic muted, for the initial 10min introduction. This enables the teacher to meet and greet students and settle the group. Students should use the 'raise hand' feature in Teams to request support or ask a question. The chat feature should only be used for conversations about the lesson. Staff will monitor students' responses and give praise and warnings as they would normally in any classroom.

If deemed necessary, staff may remove a student from the live lesson if their behaviour is having a negative impact on the learning and/or well-being of others.

Will written work sent home be the same as the live lessons?

It is not possible to provide written copies of the live lessons being delivered ahead of Wednesday and Thursday – instead students requiring written work may collect a pack from the Pastoral Hub at breaktime or lunchtime, from Monday 24th April.

Does the written work need to be handed in? Will it be marked?

Written work can of course be handed in. Staff are happy to give feedback regarding the quality and accuracy of any work completed. Completed packs should be returned to the Pastoral Hub.

If students don't attend the live lessons or complete the alternative written work, do they get marked as absent?

No, they will not be marked as absent. As we are having to restrict attendance over these two days, students being asked to work from home will not be penalised with an absence mark, regardless as to whether they complete any work or not.

What if I am unable to supervise my child or do not agree with them learning in this way?

It is our responsibility to consider the best way we can provide learning during periods of disruption and ensure that provision is made – we feel we have done this, based on both feedback from parents and what we are able to deliver. Live lessons are the best way forward.

That said, although we would hope parents are supportive and would want learning to continue, it is for parents to decide what they want their child to do on these days.

I am hopeful that we will see good online turnout over the two days, and we're looking forward to helping students maintain a routine. We will not have capacity to follow up with parents why their child did not attend their live lesson, unless we believe this is the result of a safeguarding concern.

Richard Burgas
18.04.23