



The Astley Cooper School

Aspiration, Determination, Integrity

10 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Although there is the potential that talks may happen and the strikes could be postponed, I wanted to share the plan for next week with you as it stands at the moment.

As you will be aware from the news, the National Education Union (NEU) have announced their intention to proceed with formal Industrial Action on four separate days during the Spring term – **Wednesday 1 February, Wednesday 1 March, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March.**

The industrial action is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over the level of funding schools receive and terms and conditions for staff. The disagreement is not with The Astley Cooper School but we will be affected by the industrial action on the dates above.

We have a large number of staff who are members of the NEU who will potentially take action and could decide that they will support the industrial action and make themselves unavailable for work on all or some of the identified days. Colleagues do not have to share their intention with the school which will make it difficult to safely plan our provision for 950 students.

I would like to share with you as early as possible our plans for students here at The Astley Cooper School to allow parents and carers enough time to plan family requirements. Please be advised that these arrangements are subject to change if further negotiations are reached.

I am mindful of the disruption that this causes to all students, however, our Year 11 and Year 13 students are in their final term before completing their exams and I will, therefore, endeavour to maintain routine and practice for these cohorts.

All students are required to attend school on the days that we open for their year group. Any absence will be recorded as an unauthorised absence unless medical evidence is provided.

I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and/or that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and I ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. The Astley Cooper School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students and delivering high-quality teaching.

The plans for the 15 and 16 March are attached below.



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Wednesday 15 March

Years 7, 8, and 10 - Learning will be remote and students are to stay at home. For lessons where teachers are not taking industrial action there will be live lessons. Students should log on to Google classroom at the start of each lesson to find out if their lesson is being delivered live.

Vulnerable Students - Students with a social worker are permitted to attend school, Mr Daddow will contact these parents/carers to discuss the provision for the day.

Free School Meals - A packed lunch (baguette, biscuit and drink) can be pre-ordered and collected from the Dining Hall at 3.15 pm on Monday 13 March. Please complete this [form](#) by the end of Tuesday 14 March if you are eligible and want to take up this option.

Year 9 – Due to staffing levels, students **should arrive at school at 8.30**, go to their form rooms and then attend lessons as normal with non-striking teachers in school. If a teacher is not in school, students will complete independent work in a computer room or the canteen. **Year 9 will finish school after lunch at 1.15.**

Year 11 - Due to staffing levels, students **should arrive at school at 12.30**. Students will have an early lunch and meet on the tennis courts at 1.15. Year 11 will have a Science exam in the afternoon, and leave once the exam has finished

Year 12 & 13 – should undertake independent study at home.



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Thursday 16 March

Years 7, 9, and 10 - Learning will be remote and students are to stay at home. For lessons where teachers are not taking industrial action there will be live lessons. Students should log on to Google classroom at the start of each lesson to find out if their lesson is being delivered live.

Vulnerable Students - Students with a social worker are permitted to attend school, Mr Daddow will contact these parents/carers to discuss the provision for the day.

Free School Meals - A packed lunch (baguette, biscuit and drink) can be pre-ordered and collected from the Dining Hall at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 15 March. Please complete this [form](#) by the end of Tuesday 14 March if you are eligible and want to take up this option.

Year 8 – Due to staffing levels, students **should arrive at school at 8.30**, go to form and then attend lessons as normal with non-striking teachers in school. If a teacher is not in school, students will complete independent work in a computer room or the canteen. **Year 8 will finish school after lunch at 11.45**

Year 11 - Due to staffing levels, students **should arrive at school at 12.30**. Students will have an early lunch and meet on the tennis courts at 1.15. Year 11 will have a Science exam in the afternoon, and leave once the exam has finished

Year 12 & 13 – should undertake independent study at home.

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. If you have any questions, please contact us at admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

Kind regards

Sam Orsborne
Headteacher



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