



**Sunrising, East Looe, Cornwall PL13 1NQ**

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Headteacher: Mr S Yalden BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Our Ref: SYA/HWI

23 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Industrial Action – School Closure – Wednesday 1 February 2023**

You will be aware from media coverage that the NEU (National Education Union), which represents many teachers across the UK, has declared strike action which will take place on a number of dates in February and March 2023. Some of these dates will impact Looe Community Academy. These dates are 1 February, 2 March, 15 March and 16 March. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over pay, and not because of any issues at our academy.

With the first day of strike action taking place on 1 February, I am getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that the academy will be closed to all students on that day. The Headteacher and Governors cannot close the academy in sympathy with striking unions, however, we have to give serious consideration to the safety of our students and we do not feel therefore we can offer the adequate level of supervision in the absence of striking teachers.

There is no requirement on unions to inform the academy of which members of staff will take strike action. There is also no obligation on members of unions to obey a strike call. However, based on information around potential union numbers, action and impact, I consider that it will not be safe to open on this day.

There is no obligation for NEU members to set cover work on this day. Therefore, students will be expected to work on a range of activities that will be set in advance or available via our online resources, including Satchel One, Oak National Academy: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/> and <https://continuityoak.org.uk/lessons>, CompleteMaths and Tassomai. Your child can also use the BBC Bitesize GCSE resources <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3> and read a reading book. So, we would ask that they ensure they have their login details ready for this day.

We recommend that you start to make alternative childcare arrangements for Wednesday 1 February. However, for Vulnerable Pupils and Children of Critical Workers (as defined by the Department for Education guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>)), and for those for whom childcare arrangements cannot be made, we will be providing school places on this day.

If your child qualifies and you are not able to keep them at home on this day, then please could you contact my PA Hazel Willars by email at [hwillars@looeca.net](mailto:hwillars@looeca.net) or by telephone. Responses must be received by 9am

on Friday 27 January to allow us time to prepare for this provision. We will confirm places and arrangements for the day by email.

I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation and I will inform you of any changes to our plan as soon as possible.

I will write to you again to confirm our position regarding opening for the other planned strike action days.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Scott Yalden**  
**Headteacher**