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Headteacher: Mr S Yalden BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Our Ref: SYA/HWI

23 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Industrial Action – School Closure – Thursday 2 March 2023

As per my previous letter, you will be aware that the NEU (National Education Union), which represents many teachers across the UK, has declared strike action. Some of these dates will impact Looe Community Academy. 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.

The second day of such action is on Thursday 2 March. 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 and the current prevailing level of general staff absence.

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, once again, students will be expected to work on a range of activities that will be set 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 this day. 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@looea.net or by telephone. Responses must be received by 9am on Wednesday 1 March to allow us time to prepare for this provision.

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 later in March should they continue as currently planned by the NEU.

Yours faithfully



Mr Scott Yalden
Headteacher