



**Thursday 19 January 2023**

### **Industrial Strike Action**

Dear Parents,

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action, which will take place on specific dates during February and March. The first day of planned strike action is Wednesday 1 February.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and school funding, and not because of any issues at our school.

The NEU has demanded a pay increase from the government which is at least in line with inflation and which is fully-funded (meaning that this does not need to come out of a school's existing budget).

Strike action is by nature disruptive, and while the striking members acknowledge that their action creates pressure on families, it is done in order to safeguard educational quality, to ensure standards for staff and children are protected now and in the future.

In taking strike action, staff are sacrificing their pay. At a time of financial tension, this sacrifice is not taken lightly. Striking staff are hoping that the action will encourage progress in the negotiation process.

**I am sorry to inform you that CGA will be closed to students on Wednesday 1 February. We are asking you not to send your child into school on this day.**

We have not taken this decision lightly. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students, and feel that we would be unable to provide this with the staff we have available.

Given the number of teaching staff likely to be involved in planned strike action, we are also unable to provide remote learning for students on Wednesday 1 February. We will provide recommendations for how students make best use of this time closer to the strike date. Specific further guidance will also be provided for students in Year 11 and 13.

I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I recognise that this closure presents specific challenges for students in Year 11 and 13. Please be reassured that we have clear plans in place to ensure that students will be effectively prepared for all external examinations.

We will work 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.

There are three further announced dates for strike action:

- Thursday 2 March 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023



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Ms Anna Feltham: Headteacher

Following the strike action on Wednesday 1 February, I will make a decision, based on staffing levels, about these 3 further strike days. Learning may be disrupted on these dates, and I would advise that you start to make provisional alternative arrangements for your child.

If you have any questions, please email [cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:cga@clapton.hackney.sch.uk) putting 'Planned strike action' in the subject bar.

Kind regards,

**Anna Feltham**  
**Headteacher**