

# Unity College

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26 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## Industrial Action

As you may be aware, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted to take industrial action. The dispute is not with the Governing Body (Unity College teachers' employer) but relates to the NEU's campaign for a fully-funded, above inflation pay rise and, as such, can only be settled through the intervention of the Government.

The list of projected strike days is as follows:

- **Wednesday 1 February 2023**
- **Tuesday 28 February 2023**
- **Wednesday 15 March 2023**
- **Thursday 16 March 2023**

As Headteacher, my first responsibility is the health and safety of staff and students during industrial action. I have now completed a risk assessment for **Wednesday 1 February** and have decided that we will be open **only** for:

- Year 11 children
- vulnerable children
- children of critical workers

The college will be **closed for children in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10**. Remote learning will be set for all children in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 via SatchelOne.

In making this decision, I am following guidance from the Department for Education which says that, *"if the numbers of staff on strike mean you need to temporarily prioritise places in your setting you should [give] priority to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers. In addition ... schools should consider prioritising pupils due to take public examinations and other formal assessments."*

If your child is considered to be **vulnerable**, we will contact you to determine whether they require a place in college on Wednesday 1 February.

If you are a **critical worker** and your child needs to attend college on Wednesday 1 February, please complete this [online form](#) by **12 noon** on **Monday 30 January** and we will contact you to confirm whether we are able to offer a place.

Please note that children in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who attend college on 1 February will complete the same remote learning as their peers. Children will be supervised and supported by college staff. There will be no timetabled lessons on this day for children in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

There will be a limited catering offer available in college on Wednesday 1 February for Year 11 children and those in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who are attending college. Children will be able to purchase food or obtain a free school meal. For those families eligible for free school meal whose children will not be in college on 1 February, voucher(s) equivalent to the value of school provided meal, for each child, will be sent directly to the parent's or carer's email address. If we do not have an email address, the voucher will be posted.

## Year 8 Parents' Evenings

Because of the industrial action on 1 February, we have decided to change the dates of the upcoming Year 8 Parents' Evenings. These will now be held on **Wednesday 8 February** (X-half) and **Wednesday 22 February** (Y-half). Information about how to book appointments with your child's teachers will be sent to you very soon.

I understand that industrial action is a divisive issue and that partial school closures inconvenience parents and carers. However, I ask that all members of the Unity family continue to treat each other with respect. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College [head@unity.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@unity.lancs.sch.uk) and I, or one of my colleagues, will get back to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Richardson' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jane Richardson  
**Headteacher**