Mark Rutherford School Wentworth Drive Bedford MK41 8PX MARK RUTHERFORD

Friday 21st April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Strike Action (Thursday 27th April 2023)

I write to confirm our plans for Thursday 27th April 2023 regarding the NEU's planned national strike action.

Having reviewed the situation from the last four strike days and mapped this into next week we have taken the very difficult decision to close the school to Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Students in these year groups are asked to stay at home and study remotely. They are to access the websites identified in the letter sent by Ms Vallance prior to the previous strike days, a copy of which has been re-circulated with this letter.

Students in Year 11 and 13 are to attend as follows:

Year 11

There will be external examinations taking place on this day for Year 11 students who study **GCSE Art** (specific students), **GCSE Drama**, **GCSE PE**, **GCSE MFL** (specific students). Students are to attend school in full school uniform; those students will be undertaking external examinations or coursework so it is compulsory to attend. They are to go straight to the Drama Hall to be registered at 8.30am and hand in their mobile phones. They will then be signposted to their allocated rooms for the day.

Students who study **French**, **Italian** or **Spanish GCSE** will be invited to attend on this day for at their allocated time to take their GCSE Speaking examination. Students will be issued with an appointment time and should sign in at reception at this time.

There will be a computer room available for any Year 11 students who wish to come in that day to revise; those students are to go straight to the Drama Hall to be registered at 8.30am and remain for the full school day.

Year 13

Students are to attend and adhere to our Sixth Form dress code. They are to go straight to the Sixth Form Common Room to sign in. Students will either then be able to attend their normal lessons and/or complete independent work in their designated study areas or subject specific areas. Prior to leaving the school site they must also sign out in the Sixth Form Common Room.

Attendance Codes

Those students not expected to be in school will have their attendance coded in accordance with the DfE's guidance to ensure there is no impact on their overall attendance percentage.

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Catering Provision and Free School Meals

Those students on our free school meals register will be asked to pre-order packed lunches before 6pm on Sunday via the survey link sent out directly to those eligible families and collect before they leave school on Wednesday 26th April 2023.

Those students from Year 11 and Year 13 attending school will need to bring a packed lunch as there will be no canteen facilities.

Vulnerable Students

The year teams will be in direct contact with parents/carers of students in those year groups who are being asked to access remote learning but we would like to invite into school for the day. They are expected to go straight to the Sp4L upon arrival and wear full school uniform. They will work on the provided remote learning work in the same way as their peers.

Critical Workers

In line with the DfE's guidance we will also have a provision for our students whose parents/carers are critical workers. If you require a place for your child who is in the year

groups being asked to work remotely, please contact your child's Head of Year by 4pm on Monday 24th April 2023 at the very latest to request this via the following email addresses:

- Year 7 <u>Year7Office@mrus.co.uk</u>
- Year 8 <u>Year8Office@mrus.co.uk</u>
- Year 9 <u>Year9Office@mrus.co.uk</u>
- Year 10 <u>Year10Office@mrus.co.uk</u>
- Year 11 <u>Year11Office@mrus.co.uk</u>
- Sixth Form <u>sixth.form@mrus.co.uk</u>

The year teams will coordinate this feedback and ensure we have an effective plan to support students accessing remote learning in school.

Please be reassured that we have done all we can to try and remain open however, we cannot ensure the safe running of our school for more students than we have invited to attend.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Foster Headteacher