

09 March 2023
KOn/JWe

Dear Parents and Carers

Last term I wrote to inform you that members of the National Education Union had voted for industrial action which will impact King's Oak Academy. These strikes – the result of a pay dispute between union members and government – are scheduled for February 1, March 2, and March 15 and 16. In a similar manner to the first period of industrial action on February 1, there is likely to be disruption to the King's Oak Academy routine next Wednesday (15 March) and Thursday (March 14) and some scheduled lessons will be unable to go ahead. As ever, student wellbeing remains our priority, and careful risk assessments have been carried out to assess which lessons and activities can safely continue.

The information below shares our plans for **Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March**. Please note that these arrangements may need to change ahead of next Wednesday/Thursday. We will continue to work closely with our staff union representatives to keep up-to-date with the situation, and I will inform you of any changes to our plans and share information as soon as possible.

Lower School

Reception – Year 4: **All children will be able to and are expected to attend school on Wednesday 15 March**

On Thursday 16 March the following arrangements will be in place:

Reception: All children will be able to and are expected to attend school

Year 1 and 2: We do not think that we will be able to open to all children in Year 1 and 2 therefore these year group will be open, taught separately, but with reduced capacity. On-site places will be offered to children and families who are identified as more vulnerable (e.g. Child in Need) and/or SEN (EHCP). If there are additional spaces available, children in receipt of Free School Meals will be the next priority group, followed by the wider Pupil Premium cohort and to protect public service operations, NHS/Emergency Workers who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

Year 3 and 4: We do not think that we will be able to open to all children in Year 3 and 4 therefore these year group will be merged and opened with reduced capacity. On-site places will be offered to children and families who are identified as more vulnerable (e.g. Child in Need) and/or SEN (EHCP). If there are additional spaces available, children in receipt of Free School Meals will be the next priority group, followed by the wider Pupil Premium cohort and to protect public service operations, NHS/Emergency Workers who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

WORK HARD, BE KIND

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Middle School:

Year 5: On Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March we do not think that we will be able to open to all children in Year 5 therefore this year group will be open with reduced capacity. On-site places will be offered to children and families who are identified as more vulnerable (e.g. Child in Need) and/or SEN (EHCP). If there are additional spaces available, children in receipt of Free School Meals will be the next priority group, followed by the wider Pupil Premium cohort and to protect public service operations, NHS/Emergency Workers who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

Year 6: **All children will be able to and are expected to attend school on both Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March**

Year 7 and Year 8: We do not think that we will be able to open to all children in Years 7 and 8 on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March therefore these year groups will be merged together, and we will be open with reduced capacity. On-site places will be offered to children and families who are identified as more vulnerable (e.g. Child in Need) and/or SEN (EHCP). If there are additional spaces available, children in receipt of Free School Meals will be the next priority group, followed by the wider Pupil Premium cohort and to protect public service operations, NHS/Emergency Workers who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

Upper School:

Year 9 and Year 10: We do not think that we will be able to open to all children in Years 9 and 10 on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March therefore these year groups will be merged together, and on-site places will be offered to children and families who are identified as more vulnerable (e.g. Child in Need) and/or SEN (EHCP). If there are additional spaces available, children in receipt of Free School Meals will be the next priority group, followed by the wider Pupil Premium cohort and to protect public service operations, NHS/Emergency Workers who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site. who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

Year 11: **All Year 11 students will be able to and are expected to attend school on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March.**

What will my child do on Wednesday 15/Thursday 16 March if they are not offered an on-site learning space?

We know that learning from home is not always straight forward for families. On Tuesday 14 March, we will upload a variety of home learning activities for all year groups to complete at home for Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March. We will try to make sure that the activities are as accessible as possible for everyone (e.g., some activities might require a child to use a computer, whereas others could be completed on paper or completed as a family project/experiment).

Please be aware that we will not expect every child to complete every element of work that is uploaded, and all of the home learning activities will be sent via Insight (Years 7-10).

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Please Note – *If you would like a paper based pack of learning, please complete this form ([click here](#)) or call our school office (01179 927 127) by midday on Monday 13 March so that we can prepare this for your child to take home on Tuesday 14 March*

How do I know if my child has been given an on-site space at school?

The parents/carers of children in Years 7-10 who will be offered an on-site learning space will be informed by email (Insight) and/or phone on Friday 10 March. Within this message, parents will be reminded where they should take their child on arrival so that they can be registered and taken to the correct learning space.

Where should my child go when they arrive at school?

- **Lower School:** Reception – Year 4 children should arrive and go to their classroom as normal.
- **Middle School:** Years 5 - 6 children should arrive and go to their classrooms as normal whilst Years 7 - 8 children should go to the Middle School Library.
- **Upper School:** Years 9 - 11 students should go to Main Reception (Hexagon) where there will be registered and directed to the correct learning space.

I am an NHS / Emergency Worker – Will my child be given an on-site space at school?

If you are an NHS / Emergency Worker and would like your child to be able to join our on-site provision on Wednesday and/or Thursday [please click here to register your request](#). In accordance with the information shared above about priority on-site spaces, we will endeavour to confirm whether we can facilitate on-site provision for your child by the end of the school day on Friday 10 March

What will the school day timings be?

To allow us to make sure that we have appropriate and safe staffing levels in the school and the site is able to open safely, we will need to delay our opening time slightly.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the **school gates will open at 9.15am** and lessons will start at 9.30am. The school day **will end for all children at 3pm**.

Is my child expected to wear school uniform to school (if they are given an on-site place)?

Yes. All children who are learning at school are expected to wear their normal school uniform.

My child receives Free School Meals, will they receive anything if they are not in school on Wednesday 15 / Thursday 16 March

All children who receive Free School Meals will be given an extra packed lunches to take home with them on Tuesday 14 March regardless of their on-site provision offer.

What will the break and lunchtime catering arrangements be on Wednesday 15 / Thursday 16 March?

All children who are learning with us on site on will be able to access their normal break / lunchtime catering facilities.

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Will Teddy Bears still be open on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March?

Yes. We expect that this before and after-school childcare service will continue to run as normal.

Will Sporting Chance (paid) clubs continue on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March?

Yes. We expect that Sporting Chance activities will continue to run as normal. All other (King's Oak Academy led) clubs will be cancelled.

Will King's Oak Academy be open as usual on Friday 17 March?

Yes. Our school will be open, and lessons/routines will return to their normal systems and timings on Friday.

Are the arrangements that you have shared above final and confirmed or could they change?

Please note these arrangements may need to change ahead of Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March. We will continue to work closely with our staff union representatives to keep up-to-date with the situation, and I will inform you of any changes to our plans and share information as soon as possible.

I am sure we all hope for a swift resolution to this dispute which will satisfy all parties. Until then, we recognise and respect the right of King's Oak Academy staff to take part industrial action and ask that all members of our community continue to treat each other with respect. And while I understand this situation may be frustrating, your continued support for our school at this time is appreciated.

I do hope this has answered your questions and will allow you to plan ahead for any disruption. However, should you have any further questions, do please contact the school through the usual systems (email: koa.office@clf.uk / phone: 01179 927 127).

Kind regards



Katherine Ogden
Principal of King's Oak Academy

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