

26 January 2023  
KOn/JWe

Dear Parents and Carers

Last week 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 provisionally March 15 and 16.

As per my letter last week, this will result in disruption to the King's Oak Academy routine, 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. As promised, I can now share our plans for February 1.

At King's Oak, the following will apply:

### **Lower School**

#### **Reception:**

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

#### **Year 1:**

We do not think that we will be to operate at full capacity in Year 1. 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 Pupil Premium support will be the next priority group who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

#### **Year 2:**

**All Year 2 children will be able to and are expected to attend school.**

#### **Year 3 and Year 4:**

At the moment, we do not think that we will be able to open to all children in Years 3 and 4. 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 who will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

### **Middle School:**

#### **Year 5 and Year 6:**

Both year groups will be taught separately, however we do not think at the moment that we will be to operate at full capacity in these year groups. Children who are identified as more vulnerable (e.g., Child in Need) and/or SEN (EHCP) will be offered on-site learning provision in the first instance. 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 lastly the full Year 6 cohort will be offered an opportunity to learn on site.

### **WORK HARD, BE KIND**

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**Year 7 and Year 8:** **We do not think that we will be able to open to all children in Years 7 and 8 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 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 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 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.**  
If your child studies one of the following vocational subjects, they will spend the day working with a subject specialist teacher to complete coursework so that they can catch up / get ahead in completing this important element of their course.

**Vocational Subjects:**

- Art
- Business Studies
- Design Technology
- Music
- Food Technology (Hospitality & Catering)

If your child does not study one of the options above, they will spend the day completing a carousel of English, Maths and Science revision lessons to help them prepare for their upcoming mock exams.

**Please note:** *If your child is asked to attend one of the coursework focused groups on Wednesday 1 February and finishes their work during the day, they will then join the remainder of their year group to complete English/Maths/Science lessons.*

**What will my child do on Wednesday 1 February 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 31 January, we will upload a variety of home learning activities for all year groups to complete at home. 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 Seesaw (Year 1, 3 and 4) and Insight (Year 5-10).

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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 30 January so that we can prepare this for your child to take home on Tuesday 31 January.*

**How do I know if my child has been given an on-site space at school? Where should my child go when they arrive at school?**

The parents/carers of children in all year groups (except Reception, Year 2 and Year 11) who will be offered an on-site learning space will be informed by email (Insight/SeeSaw) and/or phone on Friday 27 January. Within this message, parents will be told where they should take their child on arrival so that they can be registered and taken to the correct learning space.

All children in Reception, Year 2 and Year 11 will be expected to attend school as normal. Reception children and Year 2 should arrive and go to their classroom as normal. Year 11 students should go to Main Reception (Hexagon) where there will be registered and directed to the correct learning space.

**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, 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) on Wednesday 1 February?**

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

**What will the break and lunchtime catering arrangements be?**

All children who receive Free School Meals will be given an extra packed lunch to take home with them on Tuesday 31 January regardless of their on-site provision offer on Wednesday 1 February.

All children who are learning with us on site on Wednesday 1 February will be able to access their normal break / lunchtime catering facilities.

**Will Teddy Bears still be open on Wednesday 1 February?**

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

**Will Sporting Chance (paid) Year 1 and Year 2 Football Club continue on Wednesday 1 February?**

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 Thursday 2 February?**

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

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**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 1 February. 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](mailto:koa.office@clf.uk) / phone: 01179 927 127)

Kind regards



Katherine Ogden  
**Principal of King's Oak Academy**

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