



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education union (NEU) have declared strike action, which will take place on 1st February, 1st March and 15th-16th March. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and the funding for this and not because of any issues with the management at our school.

I am getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning may be disrupted on these dates. As Headteacher I will always take all reasonable steps to keep the school open to as many pupils as possible. I must also take into consideration the need to ensure that staffing is sufficient to ensure the health and safety of everyone on site.

We are currently undertaking a risk assessment of the impact of this action on the school. Please appreciate that this is a complex task and I will write to you again nearer the time outlining the impact on your child(ren). You should also be aware that plans for provision may need to change at the last minute.

We recommend that you make contingency arrangements for childcare for the dates above as it is possible that the school will be closed for your child.

I am sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching. I know that there will be increasing media attention regarding this issue and would urge you to understand the reasons for the strike action. Whether or not you support strike action by teaching staff it is important that you are aware that there is a very real crisis of funding, recruitment and retention of teachers and this is having a significant impact on our school just as it is across the country.

We are working closely with staff and union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016

