



**25 January 2023**

Dear Parents/Carers

## **NATIONAL STRIKE ACTION - UPDATE**

In the last week, we have seen the announcement of national strike action by the National Education Union (NEU) which has caused much interest in the public domain and amongst our staff, parents and carers.

Millthorpe School and South Bank MAT absolutely respect the rights of our staff to take lawful strike action. We live in a democracy and this is something that we feel should be protected.

We have, since the announcement of the strike action, gathered as much information as we can regarding the number of staff who are taking strike action on **Wednesday 1st February**. Having this information has enabled us to let you know at the earliest possible stage whether the strike action will affect the school provision for your children on the strike days. We wanted to give you as much notice as possible to enable you to make arrangements for childcare should this be necessary.

On **Wednesday 1st February** we will currently only be able to open to our Year 7, Year 11 and vulnerable students.

Year 7 will be in school all day but may have many lessons that are disrupted and will be completing other activities throughout the day. Students should attend school in outdoor, warm PE kit. We will send more details closer to the date.

Year 11 will be in school sitting their PPE exams in the morning; we are currently looking at the timetable for these exams and how we can provide revision space. They will be able to complete supervised revision during period 5 or to leave school at lunchtime to revise from home.

We will be identifying and inviting in vulnerable students from some other year groups, but we are unable to allow students from other year groups to attend school.

This national dispute is with the central government and not South Bank MAT and we are trying to work with our staff to respect the principles of the industrial action and also to enable parents and carers to be able to plan for the implications of this. It's a fine balance and an important one. We are confident that we are not making decisions prematurely, nor are we waiting until the last minute, thus causing a problem for you as parents and carers.

Whilst this is a difficult situation for all concerned, as a family of schools we will do all that we can to not only support our staff but also the parents and carers of our pupils.

Yours faithfully

**G Greenhalgh**  
**Headteacher**

