

# MAESTEG SCHOOL

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Bridgend  
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*Headteacher / Pennaeth: H. Jones B.A. (Hons) N.P.Q.H.*

Dear Parent / Carer,

## School Closure - Industrial Action, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

You may be aware by now that one of our largest teacher unions has voted for strike action across the country. Members of the National Education Union (NEU) will strike over pay in Wales on four dates in February and March. This planned industrial action will impact schools in Wales on four days in February and March.

These are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023
- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

It is important to note that the planned industrial action is as a result of a national dispute and has nothing to do with any issues relating to our school.

**We have undertaken a risk assessment and the leadership team and Chair of Governors agree that due to the number of staff involved in the industrial action, it is not possible to safely open the school to pupils. Therefore, the school will be closed to all pupils on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.** At this stage, I am unable to confirm the arrangements for the other dates but will update you as soon as possible in advance of the dates of further industrial action.

This decision has been made as a last resort and after working closely with education officers from the local authority, professional organisations and other local secondary headteachers in Bridgend.

It is worth noting that we are bound by specific rules linked to any industrial action taken. This means that on these days we are not permitted to:

- Know in advance the exact number of staff who will participate in the strike.
- Recruit agency staff to cover for those who will be on strike
- Redistribute the duties of absent staff to those who will be in work on that day – this includes the supervision of children or 'covering' of lessons either in person or remotely outside their normal working terms on that day.

For the reasons stated above, those staff who will attend work as normal on this day will not be able to provide work for your child. Therefore, I suggest the following:

**Pupils in years 10 – 13** can access materials from the WJEC website. These include past paper questions and knowledge organisers. They may follow their normal school timetable and prepare revision materials or complete tasks in readiness for their summer exams. They can use their Chromebooks to complete any unfinished classwork or use My Maths.

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*Motivated to Strive / Ysgogi i Ymdrechu*



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**Pupils in years 7 - 9** can work on any ongoing home-learning tasks and assessments, catch up any work missed due to previous absences and bring exercise books up to date. They may use their Chromebooks to complete MyMaths exercises also.

We will continue to work closely with our local union staff representatives in order to keep up-to-date with the situation and will only notify you once there are any further updates.

All pupils who would normally be entitled to free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch on Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sincere apologies once again for the disruption this school closure will cause.

**School will reopen for all pupils on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 as normal.**

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Jones

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