

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 15th and Thursday, 16th March 2023

Further to our letter sent last week where we indicated the significant likelihood that our school would be closed to pupils on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March, please find more details below.

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:

- **1st February 2023**
- **14th February 2023 – this date was postponed until March 2nd**
- **15th March 2023**
- **16th 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 in years 7 – 10 on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023. Students in year 11, 12 and 13 will be able to come into school. It is essential that they bring their CHROMEBOOKS into school in order to work on independent tasks where necessary.

This decision has been made as a last resort 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 action
- 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 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

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materials or complete tasks in readiness for their summer exams. They can use their Chromebooks to complete any unfinished classwork or use My Maths.

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

Pupils in years 11, 12-13 are able to come to school to work with the usual staff.

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

All pupils who would normally be entitled to free school meals will be provided with a voucher on Tuesday 14th March 2023.

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

School will reopen for all pupils on Friday 17th March 2023 as normal.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Jones

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