

### STRIKE ACTION BY NEU TEACHERS

During the national strike action by NEU teachers last week we had to close two of the schools, with the third school in our Federation partially open. There are a few points to note related to the current proposed strike days. I think the most important is to state that all education unions and school leader unions are in dispute with the Government over pay. Only NEU Teachers passed the threshold in their ballot so can legally take action. The other unions were also balloted but narrowly missed the threshold required posed by the Government. There is support for the action being taken and there is much talk of other unions being re-balloted. The second point to note is, whilst this action is headed under teacher's pay (another new stipulation by the Government for taking strike action), the fight is much wider—the erosion of school funding announcements and how much further schools have to stretch their budget is also at the heart of this action. **For schools in London, the next proposed day for regional action is Thursday 2nd March and then national action 15th and 16th March.**

You will probably be aware that there are clear processes to be followed when a union take strike action. In the aim to cause the most inconvenience, staff do not have to tell anyone that they are taking action. This means, unless staff do indicate ahead of time that they plan to be in work, schools do not know until the morning of action which staff are in to take their class that day. Headteachers have to risk assess based upon this information and make decisions with regards how safe the school will be if they were to open. At this stage, we expect a similar picture in March so must ask you to prepare for child-care arrangements should you need them. The schools will also do their best to prepare a pack of work for those pupils who need to remain home. However, we know that some staff did turn up to work last week and this meant technically some more pupils could have been in school. In the lead up to the next day of action on Thursday 2nd March we will write to you with our plans for that day. We know the best place is for your child to be learning is in school. If it is possible, then the school may make last minute decisions to open up partially.



### 2023—2024 SCHOOL TERM DATES

Recently the Local Authority realised that the school dates circulated last year for 2023/24 did not correlate well with neighbouring Boroughs. I know that some of you did raise this concern last term but Governors had agreed term dates on the basis of those originally circulated. Governors have been asked to reapprove the term dates for 2023/24 in line with what other local Boroughs are doing. This has been approved and will be welcome news to those who may have children going to school in a different Borough and for staff who live out Borough with families. The new dates will be republished on the school websites but effectively the October half-term holiday will now be in the traditional week, week beginning 23 October 2023. The Easter 2024 break will commence with Good Friday 29th March and children will return on Monday 15th April. This new holiday period will now incorporate Eid-al-Fitr.



### CALVERTON OFSTED

Calverton had its inspection in December 2022. The report is being published this week. It is disappointing that the school did not retain the previous 'Good' judgement, but we do believe the new judgement of 'Requires Improvement' is more accurate at this stage in the school's improvement journey; it is a fair judgment in our opinion.

We frequently state that being part of a Federation is positive. In our case, there are two successful schools in the Federation, both expecting their Ofsted visit this year and they will be vying for an indication the schools may be better than 'Good'. This gives us real hope and aspiration for Calverton to progress to the same status. School leaders are determined to show that Calverton can also be a highly successful school. There will be a continued need to work hard and at pace to improve. A school receiving a second Requires Improvement judgement is no longer in charge of its own destiny.

## School Governors

### GOVERNANCE



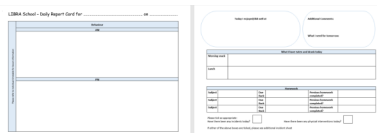
In recent weeks, there has been a slight change in the Federation Governing Board as we now have one co-opted Governor vacancy. David Bond has had to resign from the Board due to his increased work commitments. For almost a decade, he has provided challenge and support to school leaders, especially more recently as the Chair of Governors. Working in the world of school finance was a real asset to the Board and he will be missed. His departure also means that the Local Governance Committee (LGC) at Calverton has lost a person. The Local Authority will work to replace the vacancy on the LGC.

We plan to advertise on the national Governance sites for a new co-opted Governor in the coming weeks and a new Chair of Governors will be appointed. If anyone does know anyone who works in the finance industry, and has the time to commit to being a Governor, we would be happy to hear from them for consideration. Do get in touch with Alix, our clerk, for more information at

[alix.williams@cpdschoolsfederation.org](mailto:alix.williams@cpdschoolsfederation.org).

### ANNUAL REPORTS

The schools will be issuing your child's annual report at the end of the Spring Term. This is an opportunity to assess where each child is mid-year against the national expectation. Knowing this information allows the school, and you as parents, to be clear what gaps need to be worked on over the summer term to get your child to the best academic position possible. All working on these targets together as the 'triangle' of child, parent and teacher is going to be the most successful way of helping every child achieve their potential.



### SAFER INTERNET DAY

This week, there would have been a little extra focus in children's lesson on being able to keep safe online. From cyberbullying to social networking to digital identity, each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns.

This year's theme was 'want to talk about it?'. The schools deal frequently with issues that have taken place outside of school, online. Sometimes, children coming into school and raising a concern with us is the first you as parents know anything about it. Of course, it is wonderful that the children feel school is a safe environment to share their worries; however, if they do not raise them at home also, a child could be subjected to worrying material or unpleasantness for many hours over night or the weekend.

Do encourage your child to report to you immediately anything that concerns them. If the concerns involve other children at the school, we do not expect you to take matters into your hands but do let the school know so we can look into it and deal with the problem. By the time children get to Year 5 and Year 6 they are legally old enough to be charged with offences. An unkind word or threat can be magnified should the police become involved.

Everyone has the right to feel safe in their home and we know how important getting online is for many things. The key message is how this is done safely and what the repercussions of unsafe behaviour online could be.



### HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

The school year continues to move at a pace. We approach the half-way point in the school year with February half-term now upon us. It is the time of year when the weather can be so unpredictable—who can forget the 'beast from the east' in February 2018! I do hope the weather stays dry and mild and allows you to be able to make plans with your children. We know how important it is to spend time together as a family. Newham will put on a number of activities to keep children occupied but the Borough has so many places that you can enjoy as a family e.g. walks in the parks, going to the cinema, etc. and then London has so much to offer too. We wish you all a safe and fantastic half-term break.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature of Darren Williams in black ink.

