

3rd July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Strike Action Update – Partial Closure on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July

We wrote to you previously to share the dates of planned strike action by the NEU (National Education Union). We understand that you will welcome as much advance notice as possible of our plans, so we are writing to update you on arrangements for Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July.

Predicting the precise impact of strike action is difficult but we are aware that several of our staff are members of the NEU and are therefore likely to strike. All schools are required to have an appropriate number of staff to ensure the safe running of the school and supervision of the children. Unfortunately, we are likely to fall below this number.

We have therefore decided to close school to the following year groups on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July:

School is closing for pupils in Years 7, 8, 9

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer live online lessons for pupils throughout the day because we are unable to ask non-striking colleagues to 'cover' in this way. However, we will be directing pupils to a range of online/remote learning to undertake. Further details of this will be communicated and can be accessed through Google classroom and other online platforms.

School is open for pupils in Years 10 and 12 and they will be expected to attend school as normal, however the organisation for the day may be slightly different. Where there are teachers who are not present, lessons will either be covered by senior members of staff or a non-teaching member of staff who is able to do so or supervised in private study.

Year 10 pupils on our South Campus will have their Paper 3 Maths mock exam on Friday 7th. Please arrive at the Sports hall for an 11:30 start.

The school will reopen to everyone on Thursday 6th July and Monday 10th July.

The school canteen will operate as normal.

Free School Meals

Pupils who are not attending school on 5th July and 7th July as per above but are eligible and require a free school meal for those days will be able to collect a packed lunch on **Tuesday 4th July and Thursday 6th July between 1.30pm and 2pm.**

Please can you email generalenquiries@ewsacademy.org.uk by **3pm on Monday 3rd July** if you want to take up this offer.

Vulnerable Students

If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 and being at home on 5th and 7th July is detrimental to their health or a risk to their safety please contact Mr Brennan on North or Mrs Shah on South as soon as possible before Wednesday. We will have to put them on a specific timetable for the day though, as a result of the necessary changes we will make to keep the school partially open.

Picketing

It is possible that the NEU will organise a small 'picket' at the school entrance on the morning of the strike. This will be a small gathering of staff demonstrating their support for the strike. We would like to reassure you that this will not be a disruptive or unpleasant occurrence, and those on the picket will not try to prevent or interfere with staff and pupils who are attending school.

We are sorry that this situation will cause disruption and inconvenience, but we want to assure you that we will always act in the best interests of our pupils' safety and wellbeing.

We are sure we all look forward to a satisfactory resolution to this dispute and a return to normal provision.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Yours sincerely



Mr H Holland
Associate Headteacher, North Campus



Mrs H Jones
Head of School, South Campus