

28th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Industrial Action

You will have heard in the national news that there is further strike action next week. Please find further information regarding strike action on **Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July.**

It is our intention to keep the school open for as many children as possible. However, we need to ensure that in doing so we are able to meet the health and safety requirements for students and staff who are in school on these days. As a result, the School Leadership Team and I have considered all aspects of safe school opening and operation and have planned the following for **Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July.**

What will happen at the school during the strike on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July?

- **School will be partially open on this day. Students in year 10 only will be in school as normal due to preparation for their mock examinations and completion of coursework. Year 7, 8 and 9 will receive home learning schedules which we will send to students and parents/carers via email before the close of business on Tuesday 4th July. After receiving parent and carer feedback, we will also send this information directly to students, via their Suthers School email account, so they have direct access.**
- **School will be open to vulnerable learners on 5th and 7th July. We will be in touch directly with families regarding this provision.**
- **As the school will be partially open to year 10, as per the Department for Education expectations, all students from this year group are expected to be in attendance – usual attendance policy and uniform expectations will be in place.**
- **If your child is in any off-site alternative provision, you will receive separate communication regarding arrangements for this.**

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We appreciate that any partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If this is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students, parents and carers that as a Trust we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We wish to assure you that we will be taking all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students' learning. We are sure that all members of the Trust/school community will continue to treat each other with respect. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience during this time.

We continue to work with our union colleagues as this situation develops and we will endeavour to keep you updated as soon as we are able. We will distribute any further information to you by email and on our website regarding the next strike action.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at The Suthers School. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

Nic Watkin
Head Teacher