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Featherstone High School

Headteacher: Mr N. Walters

Founding Member of the Grand Union MAT



27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Industrial Action on 1st February and partial closure

As you are aware, the NEU voted to take industrial action with the first strike day being Wednesday 1st February. This action has been called due to a dispute that the NEU has with the government on the failure to ensure a fully funded increase in pay which matches inflation. The NEU also have a dispute about the wider issues facing education including concerns about funding in schools and the problems with staff recruitment and retention.

Having considered the anticipated staffing situation on Wednesday 1st February, I am sorry to have to tell you that the school will be closed to students in all year groups except for students in Year 11 and Year 13. From a health and safety point of view, we will not have enough staff in school to bring other year groups in and are therefore prioritising the exam year groups as requested by the Department for Education. A small number of our more vulnerable pupils will also be invited in by the SEN department or by the pastoral team.

Students should therefore **not** come into school on Wednesday 1st February unless they are in Year 11 or Year 13 or, have been individually invited in.

I am sorry to say that I must add that in the event of more staff being off work than I currently anticipate, it may still be necessary for me to send Year 11 and Year 13 home early on the day if the situation demands.

The school day will start at 8:30am and end at 1:30pm.

Students, who are at home, should use the day to complete homework in their subjects. I am asking staff to ensure there is a lot of homework set. However, this may be inconsistent as staff who are striking are under no obligation to set work.

Should you have a particular need for us to have your child in school on account of being a critical worker, please complete the form on the following link by Tuesday 31st January at 12 noon - <https://forms.office.com/e/Xs012TiDvB>. I must ask that you only use this option if absolutely necessary as we have very limited staff coming in.

All students entitled to free school meals will be issued with a food voucher ahead of Wednesday.

The NEU has called for three further days of industrial action on Thursday 2nd March 2023, Wednesday 15th March 2023 and Thursday 16th March 2023 and I will write to you nearer to these dates to let you know how Featherstone High School is affected.

I hope that this early notification will assist you in making arrangements. I thank you for your understanding and support.

The school will be open as normal on Thursday 2nd February.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Walters
Headteacher