



Smithdon High School
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Re: AGi/LT

27 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Partial School Closure due to Strike Action on 1 February 2023

You may be aware from media coverage that The National Education Union [NEU] has announced a series of strike days across the UK, the first of which is taking place on Wednesday 1 February 2023. This action is happening in schools across the country because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over school funding and pay: this is not because of any local issues or concerns within our school.

At Smithdon High School fifty percent of our teachers are NEU members. As teachers in other unions cannot be asked to cover the lessons of striking colleagues it will not be possible to open the school safely to all students on Wednesday.

The school will be **open to Year 7 students only**.

All remaining year groups will have online learning to complete from home and should follow their usual timetable (including Year 11, whose planned PPEs for Wednesday have been rearranged to take place at alternative times).

Those teachers not striking will provide online lessons through our Google Classroom platform as they did during the pandemic - students will be expected to attend online from 9am (form time is not included) and for the start of every lesson, where an attendance register will be taken and work set to complete or a live lesson will be delivered.

The law does not require workers to declare their individual intention to strike so it will not be possible to tell students which lessons will be available online in advance.

Students should follow their usual school timetable hours and check into the Google Classroom each period to see whether a lesson is being provided. In the event that a lesson has no teacher present in the Google Classroom and no work set:

- KS3 (Yrs 8 & 9) students should complete work from their Knowledge Organiser, Sparx Maths or Oak Academy.
- KS4 (Yrs 10 & 11) students should complete work from their revision guides, GCSEPod, Sparx Maths, Everlearner or Oak Academy

We understand that this situation may be frustrating and we apologise for the inconvenience this may cause you in making alternative arrangements for your child at short notice. I would like to reassure you that we will do everything we can to minimise the disruption to our students' education and we ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

This is a national strike and so further details of the reasons for this action can be found on the NEU website. We are fortunate to have a team of highly committed teachers at Smithdon and those that have chosen to take strike action will have done so only after serious consideration of the national issues. Smithdon High



School and the West Norfolk Academies Trust remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students and delivering high-quality teaching.

If you have any questions please contact office@smithdonhigh.org.uk in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Gibbins
Headteacher