



Smithdon High School
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Ref: AGi/LT

29 June 2023

Dear Parents

Re: Partial School Closure due to Strike Action on 5 and 7 July 2023

Following on from the strikes last half term, The National Education Union [NEU] has announced further strike days taking place on Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July 2023. This action is happening in schools nationally 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 over 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 these strike days.

As in my last letter, **the majority of the staff have been clear that their biggest concern is not the proposed pay rise but the Government's failure to provide additional funding for the school budget to support the already agreed pay rise or any future ones.** Without additional funding to cover the increase in pay, school budgets will need to further cut provision from elsewhere - fewer resources for students, reduction in support staff, reduction in additional opportunities for students, etc. and we are already beginning to see the impact of this.

On **Wednesday 5 July** the school will be **open to Yr10 students only.**

On **Friday 7 July** the school will **only be open to Yr9 students and those Yr10s who study DT as an option subject**, so they can work on their NEA projects (these students will receive a separate letter).

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 and those who are striking are not required to set any work for their students.

Students not in school, who wish to complete work at home, should use their Knowledge Organiser, Sparx Maths, Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize, GCSEPod, Everlearner or alternative online sources.

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 continue to 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 programme 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.

The Cambridge
Partnership
Graduate Teacher Programme



Yours sincerely

A. Gibbins,

Mrs A Gibbins
Headteacher