



Smithdon High School
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Ref: AGi/LT

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Partial School Closure due to Strike Action on 27 April and 2 May 2023

Following on from the strikes last half term, The National Education Union [NEU] has announced further strike days taking place on Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May 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 now 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.

Since my last letter, additional teachers have either changed unions or have informed me they intend to strike following no progress being made in the unions' talks with the Government. **For many of them, they 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 pay rise.** 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.

On these strike days, the school will be **Year 11 students only**.

All remaining year groups (Years 7-10) will have online learning to complete from home and should follow their usual timetable.

Those teachers not striking will provide work through our Google Classroom platform - students will be expected to attend online from 9am (form time is not included) and for the start of every lesson, where if their teacher is not on strike work will be set to complete and information for how to contact them for help.

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 should follow their usual school timetable hours and check into the Google Classroom each period to see whether work has been provided. In the event that a lesson has no work set in the Google Classroom, students should complete work from 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

The Cambridge
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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

A. Gibbins,

Mrs A Gibbins
Headteacher