



AUDENSHAW SCHOOL

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO HELP BUILD
EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG MEN.

Principal: **Mr P Taylor**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

24th January 2023

I do hope this finds you well.

You will doubtless now be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) are intending to take industrial strike action on Wednesday 1st February 2023. The other teaching unions did not reach the legal minimum number of responses required to their respective ballots hence it is only members of the NEU who can choose to strike. I wanted to make clear that the action is not against the school but forms part of national union action concerning the **funding levels for schools, changes to the pay, pensions and conditions of their members, teacher recruitment and retention and a range of other national working condition related issues.**

The strike days planned are the **1st and 28th February, and the 15th and 16th of March.** I will add, it isn't appropriate for me to comment in any manner on the justification of such action and my role is very much around ensuring practical arrangements are in place for the day(s) mentioned and opening the school where it is safe and sensible to do so dependent on staffing levels.

I have mentioned many times this past year or so the exceptional times we are living in (post-pandemic) and the challenges that brings. I wanted to mention again that together we overcome such challenges and our priority remains doing all we can to ensure as little disruption as possible for our students on the set days.

To provide a little further context, there is no requirement on trade unions to inform us of exactly which members of staff will act/strike, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members to obey a strike call.

As you are well aware, we pride ourselves on working closely both as a staff body and wider community. With this in mind we are undertaking a full risk assessment of how the strike action may impact our school and in due course (as we move closer to the first strike day), **we will continue to update our parents and carers accordingly on Thursday 26th January with final arrangements for the first strike day** providing enough time for planning that would need to take place at home. What we have ascertained at this stage is that a number of our staff are in the NEU and therefore I regret to inform you that there will not be sufficient staff in school that day for Audenshaw to run a full curriculum offer for all students.

As ever my main concern is the safety and supervision of our students and it is highly likely that we will not have enough staff in school to support the vast majority of students being on site.

At this stage I am purposely leaving it until later this week to confirm the firm planning we will have on the 1st of February, and which groups or students will be in school, and what groups will access their learning from home. I really do appreciate your patience here and will update you on Thursday but just wanted to communicate about the strike day early this week to share the wider context.

Kind Regards,

P Taylor

Principal

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