



BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

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20th April 2023

UPDATE ON NATIONAL STRIKES – THURSDAY 27TH APRIL and TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2023

School to be open to Year 11 students and those with an external plan and closed to Years 7 - 10

Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware, members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take strike action and two further dates have been published for this action. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and not because of any issues at our school. The next two days are due to take place on;

Thursday 27th April
Tuesday 2nd May

Please note that Monday 1st May is a bank holiday and school will be closed to all students on this day. There is a further bank holiday on Monday 8th May to mark the King's Coronation and school will be closed to all students on this day too.

I have been working with governors and staff to consider how best to manage this industrial action and am writing to share our plans with you to give you as much notice as possible. We have reviewed our risk assessment and evaluated the number of staff involved in the strike on the previous four days.

We wish to fully support the members of our teaching staff who are taking legitimate industrial action and, as a result, **we will be closing to students in Years 7 to 10 but will be open to Year 11.**

Due to the reduced number of staff in school, we have had to give priority to children who are supported with an external plan and Year 11 students who are due to take public examinations in the summer. Families who fall into the first group have already been contacted.

Year 11 will undertake normal lessons delivered by their usual teachers and for any where staff are not in due to striking, students will have access to careers and CV writing support, well-being and meditation techniques to support exam stress and revision techniques, delivered by student support co-ordinators.

Food will be available for all students in school and for any on Free School Meals in other years, a packed lunch can be collected from the main reception between 11am and 1.00 pm on Thursday and Tuesday.

We do not know if there will be staff on a picket line at our school for the next two days of action, however, guidelines have been issued to staff who may wish to do this in order to ensure that it is held in an appropriate way. Only staff in the NEU are able to be on any picket line, parents or students are not allowed to join it.

Work will be available on Google Classroom for students to access at home and some teachers will issue paper resources for students to work through next week. Please be aware that there may be some gaps to

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the work available as teachers who are striking, are not required to set work on this day. Where there are any gaps in the work available, I would encourage students to access the following website for their work; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondary> and <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

Our website provides an overview of all the topics covered each term for every subject in each year group and can be viewed by going into Learning, Curriculum, Subjects and then clicking on the curriculum overview. <https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Subjects&pid=88> This is to support parents at home so you can see what topics are covered at each point in the year.

To summarise

- Year 11 students will be in school following their usual timetabled lessons
- Students with an external plan will be taught in school (Families have already been contacted who fall into this group)
- School will be closed to all other students in Years 7 – 10 and work will be available online to complete at home
- Food will be served as usual for students in school
- For students on free school meals, a packed lunch can be collected from the main reception

I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and that they will experience disruption to their education. Blacon High School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thankyou for your continued support.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson

Headteacher