

16th February 2023

UPDATE ON NATIONAL STRIKES – TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take strike action and 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 strike is due to take place on Tuesday 28th February, after the half term break. Two further dates are also planned; Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.

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 for the second day of strike action on **Tuesday 28th February**, to give you as much notice as possible.

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 11**. Due to the strike day falling on a day when Year 11 would usually have option subjects on their timetable, I am unable to guarantee that I will have enough staff to be able to deliver lessons to Year 11 in school.

Due to the reduced number of staff in school, we are still giving priority to children who are supported with an external plan and families who fall into this group have already been contacted.

Food will be available for all students in school. Those eligible for Free School Meals can collect a packed lunch from the main office between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Tuesday, or they may collect it at the end of the day on Monday.

We didn't have a picket line on the last day of strike action but we do not know if there will be staff on a picket line at our school on the next date; 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. Please be aware that there may be some gaps to 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 to also use <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

To summarise:

- School will be closed to Years 7 – 11
- Students with an external plan will be taught in school (families have already been contacted who fall into this group)
- Food will be served as usual for students in school
- Students eligible for a free school meal can collect a packed lunch from the main office


I am 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 students 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. I will send out further details on plans for the two days in March once we have reviewed arrangements after the 28th February.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson
Headteacher