

28th June 2023

UPDATE ON NATIONAL STRIKES – WEDNESDAY 5th AND FRIDAY 7th JULY 2023

School to be closed to Years 7 – 10 and open to those with an external plan

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;

Wednesday 5th July

Friday 7th July

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 days, along with numbers of staff involved in external visits that week.

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 students supported with an external plan.**

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 families who fall into this group have already been contacted.

To allow external activities that have already been planned or will be underway during this week, the following activities will still take place;

- Spanish Language Trip, 3rd – 6th July
- 5th July - Year 6 Meet the Tutor Day will go ahead as most of the staff will be in school
- 7th July – Trip to the Eisteddfod will go ahead as the staff involved will be in school

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 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July.

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. 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 <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

Our website provides an overview of all the topics covered each term for every subject in each year group. This is to support parents at home so you can see what topics are covered at each point in the year, and can be viewed by accessing the school website and navigating to Learning, Curriculum, Subjects and then clicking on the curriculum overview:

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Subjects&pid=88>

To summarise:

- 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 any students in school
- For students eligible to free school meals, a packed lunch can be collected from the main office

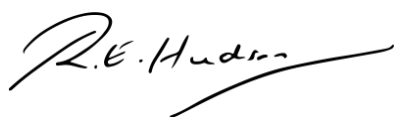
I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and that they will experience disruption to their education. Blacon High School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson
Headteacher