



Our Ref: AF/SWD/Y10

Thursday 29 June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Industrial Action on Wednesday and Friday, 5 and 7 July 2023

You will already know from my previous letters that the National Education Union (NEU) has been carrying out a programme of industrial action, including strike days over the past months. This industrial action is aimed at highlighting to the government the feelings from members about problems which have been discussed between union officials and politicians over recent months. The NEU has continued with its plan to call on its members to take strike action on Wednesday 5 July and on Friday 7 July 2023.

I am writing to you today to explain how this will affect Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy.

Due to the nature of the industrial action, I will have to inform you of our position before each planned day, as it is possible to have a different outcome for each day of action, based on available staffing and risk assessments. Our first priority is the health and safety, and the wellbeing of our students. **If strike action were to be called off before 4 July, I will inform you via text, email and our school website, and school will continue as normal on those days.**

In relation to the potential strike days scheduled for Wednesday and Friday, 5 and 7 July 2023, we are planning to close to students in years 7, 8 and 9. Extra-curricular activities are cancelled for those days.

Your child is in Year 10. They are involved in work experience next week. I am therefore writing separately to parents and carers of children in Year 10, because different arrangements apply.

School will be closed to students in Year 10, apart from vulnerable students. Students who are out on work experience placements should continue to attend their placements. Any students who were expecting to be in school on Wednesday and Friday 5 and 7 July will need to work from home for these days.

The school will remain open for vulnerable students in year 10. These students are expected to attend and will have a programme of lessons and activities with their teachers or with a cover supervisor. Vulnerable children include those who are in Local Authority Care, those who have a social worker, and children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). Vulnerable children will be identified by their Year Leaders and our SEND Department, and parents/carers will be contacted.

We know the decision to close the school to most students will be disappointing for families and will cause challenges for childcare, but we will attempt to work together to manage the impact in the most appropriate way possible.

"Together we grow, learn and succeed"



On Wednesday and Friday, 5 and 7 July 2023, students in year 10 who are not out on work experience should access work using the following online sources. (Students in year 10 are in key stage 4):

- Oak National Academy: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/> following the 'subjects-by-key-stage' link to a choice of subjects and individual lessons. Students should select subjects by referring to their timetable for the day.
- Hegarty Maths: [HegartyMaths](https://www.hegartymaths.com/) using the student's usual login details to access suitable work.
- Seneca – for Geography and Science – [https://Senecalearning.com](https://www.senecalearning.com/) using the student's usual login details to access suitable work.
- Khan Academy: [Khan Academy | Free Online Courses, Lessons & Practice](https://www.khanacademy.org/) Khan Academy provides lesson materials across a range of subjects, including Mathematics and Science, as well as reading and comprehension materials and careers-style activities. Please note that Khan Academy uses the terminology from US schools, which begins numbering school years one year later than in the UK. Year 10 in the UK is therefore equivalent to US 9th Grade.

Attached to this letter is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document which details aspects that will need to be considered on the day, which we hope will help with understanding the context.

Industrial action is not undertaken lightly, and decisions can alter over time even in the hours before a strike day. If there is any change, we will keep families updated whenever we have relevant information, to ensure there is clear planning to support our children.

School buses will run as usual on 5 and 7 July.

The school cafeteria will operate as usual for students who are in school. Vulnerable students entitled to a free school meal who are attending school will get their meal, as usual. The school will send a voucher to all other parents and carers of children who are on our list for free school meals. This voucher will cover both days of proposed industrial action.

Thank you for your continued understanding in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A T Fowler
Principal