



Our Ref: AF/SWD

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. I am writing separately to parents and carers of children in Year 10, who are on work experience that week.

The school will remain open for students in year 12, and for vulnerable students in years 7, 8 and 9. These students are expected to attend and will have lessons following their normal timetable 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.

Students in Year 12 will be expected to study privately if they have a lesson for which their teacher is on strike. This system worked well for students on previous days of industrial action, and I commend your children for the maturity of their approach, in difficult circumstances.

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 groups 7, 8 and 9 should access work using the following online sources. (Students in years 7, 8 and 9 are in key stage 3):

- 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. Their 1st Grade is our Year 2. Year 7 = 6th Grade; Year 8 = 7th Grade; Year 9 = 8th 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