



Hall Green School An Academy

8 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Planned strike action at Hall Green School on Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 March 2023

I write to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

Background

We have had confirmation from NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

What is the dispute which has led to the strike about?

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living, as well as the fact that the pay rise is not covered by existing school budgets. This lack of additional funding impacts the allocation of resources to things such as books and other resources since the start of this academic year.

What will happen at the school during the strike?

Wednesday 15 March

- **School is open to Year 10 and Year 11 and they are required to attend as normal.** Year 10 and Year 11 lessons and mock exams will be running as normal periods 1-5 (including where possible P6 for Year 11). We have also planned for some Year 11 pupils to work specifically on controlled assessment work. It is vital that Year 10 and Year 11 pupils are in attendance in line with the DfE requirement for pupils to be in school on the days it is open.
- **School is closed to pupils in Years 7-9.** Teachers will set work for their classes on the day on Class Charts which should be completed by all pupils. Where possible, teachers will inform pupils of this work prior to the day. We recognise that not all pupils have access to the internet or a computer and so work set will generally not involve the use of these things. Please do contact school if you wish to receive alternative work.

Thursday 16 March

- **School is open to Year 8 and Year 11 and they are required to attend as normal.** Year 8 and Year 11 lessons and mock exams will be running as normal periods 1-5 (including where possible P6 for Year 11). We have also planned for some Year 11 pupils to work specifically on controlled assessment work. It is vital that Year 8 and Year 11 pupils are in attendance in line with the DfE requirement for pupils to be in school on the days it is open.
- **School is closed to pupils in Years 7,9, and 10.** Teachers will set work for their classes on the day on Class Charts which should be completed by all pupils. Where possible, teachers will inform pupils of this work prior to the day. We recognise that not all pupils have access to the internet or a computer and so work set will generally not involve the use of these things. Please do contact school if you wish to receive alternative work.

Year 11 mock exams will be unaffected and so it is vital all Year 11 pupils are in attendance on both strike days.

- **Children of critical workers.** We will endeavour to provide places for all pupils who require one due to parents being critical workers. If you wish to request a place, please email enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk or telephone the main school office **by 3.00 pm on Monday 13 March**. **If you do not hear back from us, you should assume your child has a place and send them in as normal.**
- The **SENDCo** and **Welfare Team** may also contact parents/carers directly of those pupils with additional needs to discuss specific arrangements. If you do not receive contact but wish to discuss further how the school can support on this day, please do contact the school.
- **Free school meals entitlement.** Please do contact us via email or phone **by 3.00 pm on Monday 13 March** if you wish for arrangements to be made for your child if they are in a year group working from home on either of the days and are entitled to free school meals. **Parents/carers who have made arrangements with the school on previous strike days can assume these arrangements are in place on Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 March and do not need to contact the school to arrange.**

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils and parents that as a school we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that a partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

To summarise, the arrangements for both days are:

Wednesday 15 March: Years 10 & 11 in school (Years 7,8,9 working from home)

Thursday 16 March: Years 8 & 11 in school (Years 7,9,10 working from home)

Pupils *must* attend if their year group are expected in school.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Hall Green School. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Miss K Slater
Headteacher

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