

25th April 2023

## Re: Arrangements for Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May in response to strike action

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware from the ongoing media coverage that the teaching unions have declared strike action, which will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. 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.

We respect the teachers' right to take this action in the dispute they have with the Department of Education. However, we recognise that this will be disruptive to students' education and to parents and carers.

I'm sorry to inform you that school will be closed on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. We are asking you not to send your child into school on these days. The school will remain open for Year 11 students who will be in preparation for their Summer GCSEs.

## **Year 11 Arrangements**

Year 11 students are expected to arrive at school at their normal time of 8.20am. The students will have no session 7 and they will be leaving at 2.40pm.

## Free school meals

If your child receives Free School Meals (FSM), we can offer your child a school meal at lunchtime from 1.00pm to 1.30pm. Students should report to main reception on arrival at 1.00pm if they wish to have a meal and will be returned to reception to leave the site at 1.30pm. As the students will only be on site for 30 minutes to eat their lunch, they will not be required to wear their school uniform.

We have not taken this decision lightly. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all our pupils and feel that we would be unable to provide safe supervision with the staff we have available.

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. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

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.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

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Mr M Azum - Head of School

