



27th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Re: Strike Action

You will be aware from the letter that was sent out on Friday that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

Due to the number of staff planning to take action, we have made the difficult decision to close our secondary schools on 1st February to all students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10.

It is our intention to invite Year 11 into school for either a full or half day. We are currently working on personalised timetables ready to issue to all Year 11 students on Monday 30th January.

We will also be inviting a select group of students into school in line with advice and guidance from the Department for Education. Families of these students will receive a letter on Monday 30th January outlining the arrangements. It is important to note that this will not be the same cohort as during the pandemic, but will include students who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and those children who are in the care of the Local Authority.

The decision to close the school to the vast majority of students is not a decision we have taken lightly. Furthermore, we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, and therefore a decision to fully close may have to be taken at the last minute. However, every effort will be made to give notice - at the latest by the day before.

Arrangements for any student entitled to a free school meal will be put in place prior to the 1st of February. Parents of students entitled to a free school meal will be contacted in due course.

We appreciate that industrial action is disruptive and you may need to change your plans or working arrangements whilst this action is ongoing. If the strike action is called off then we will confirm this as soon as we can and in this eventuality the school will be open as usual to all students.

The NEU has indicated that they plan to strike for a further three days on the 1st March, 15th March and 16th March. I will write to you in advance of each date to confirm any changes to arrangements and whether the strike is going ahead.

If you have any questions about the alternative arrangements outlined above, please email admin@gainsboroughacademy.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs H. O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer
Wickersley Partnership Trust

Mrs R. Skelton
Headteacher
The Gainsborough Academy