



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Term 3 – End of Week 3 Update – Strike Action

As you are aware, the NEU teacher's union have declared strike action to take place over four days. The first of these days is Wednesday 1st February 2023. As previously stated, the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the Government over teachers' pay, conditions and national funding levels for education, and not because of any issues related to the school. For further information on the reasons for strike action, please follow the link <https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view>.

Since the announcement of the strike, the school have been in discussion with striking and non-striking unions in school, consulting documentation and guidance from the Department for Education, unions and Derbyshire County Council, analysing the impact of the action, exploring different models of operation and undertaking risk assessments of provision.

It is clear that a significant number of teaching staff will be affected by the strike which severely compromises the ability of the school to function as normal and impacts on the alternatives that can be put in place. Consequently, on the grounds that there are not sufficient staffing to cover lessons, the number of striking staff is large, the impact on classes is widespread, the coverage of supervision for students is unpredictable and alternatives are limited and not suitable, **the school will close on Wednesday 1st February 2023 and move to a remote learning model. The Year 12 and 13 examinations on site will go ahead as planned. A Priority School on site will be in operation for identified students.**

The overview of the arrangements for the strike day are given below. A more detailed document for your reference, explaining the context, impact and arrangements is available on the website by following the link that is on the home page which will take you to an information folder related to the strike. In this folder is a variety of files for your reference, which will be the go-to place for information.

We are sorry for any disruption that you may experience and that may occur with your child's education, fully understanding the upset and frustration this may cause. DHFS is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment for the students and our plans for the day, in the context of the strikes and the impact on staffing and service provision, are based on keeping the school safe and functioning effectively.

In the event of the dispute being resolved and the strike action called off, the school will open as normal. If this happens, the school will be in contact to inform you immediately.

Yours sincerely

Mr M J Cooper
Headteacher

Provision for Students on the Strike Day – Years 7-13

The school will close for Years 7-13 and move to a remote learning model using Teams, as was in place during the pandemic under the Plan C School arrangements. The overview is given below.

- Learning will take place on Teams. Students will be reminded of our processes before the day. Students new to the school and unfamiliar to Teams will have access to information and support
- Year 12 and 13 who have scheduled examinations on site should attend as normal and report to the Sports Hall, as this provision and related staffing are not affected by the strike
- Year 12 and 13 do not have to remain on site when not in an exam. The Hub is available for students to work in should they wish to stay on site as this is staffed by colleagues not involved in the strike. Students will be registered by the exam invigilators when in the exam and should sign in at the Hub as normal if using this resource
- A live assembly will be taken by Mr Cooper, Headteacher, during Mentor Time. Students will be sent an email to their school account with a link for this event, which they should access at 9.00am
- For lessons, students will be sent an email by their teacher, if they are not absent on the day, with a link for the live lesson. Students should access this at the start of the normal lesson time, be ready to learn with equipment and exercise book/paper and be reading as normal waiting for the start of the lesson. Cameras should be on. Students do not have to wear uniform but should be appropriately dressed in a suitable setting. Screen breaks are built into the times of the lesson to ensure the time is managed carefully and students are not sat staring at screens all day. For this reason, live lessons will be for 45 minutes
- If students do not receive an email link from a teacher this means there will not be a live lesson for that period. In this situation, students should access the emailed link to 'Alternative Curriculum Content', where a number of standalone lessons are available centred on important topical issues and themes linked to the school's social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) curriculum. Although the National Curriculum can be disapplied during a strike, the school believes it is important to ensure that learning links strongly to our planned curriculum. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have the additional option that they may choose independent revision and learning consolidation instead of the Alternative Curriculum Content if they do not have a live lesson
- Some staff may be absent for non-strike reasons. Therefore, live lessons will not take place for these staff. In these cases, staff may email subject specific work to the students to complete instead of the Alternative Curriculum Content
- The above will be implemented over the next few days and be in place for Wednesday morning

Provision for Students – Vulnerable and Critical Worker Children

The school will open some facilities on site for vulnerable children, and critical worker children whose families cannot keep them at home, by opening a Priority School, as we did during the pandemic. To access this service, parents and carers need to book their child into the Priority School by completing the form that will be sent by Mr Pickles via email. A response by the deadline set in this communication is helpful to support preparation of provision.

- Priority School students should attend school as normal in full uniform, with full equipment
- Students should use the Chesterfield Road entrance. All other entrances will be closed
- They should arrive on site for 8.50am and report to Phoenix Hall for an assembly at 9.00am
- From assembly, students will be directed to a computer room, where they will be able to access live lesson and online content under the supervision of staff
- The normal school times will run
- The school will operate break and lunch as normal and food will be available

Provision for Students – Free School Meals

Free school meal students who attend the Priority School will be able to access food as normal. Students who are not on site can book a free school meal via abaxby@dhfs.uk, which can be collected on the morning from school. Orders should be placed by 11.00am on Monday 30th January 2023.