

Houlton School
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Michael McCulley
Principal

Registered in England
Company number 07515832

20 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Anticipated Arrangements for Wednesday 1 February 2023

As you are aware from my last letter to you on 18 January 2023, one of the teachers' unions, NEU, has invited its members to take strike action. The strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and school funding; it is not because of any local issues at our academy.

This letter is to advise you of our anticipated plans for the **first** of the planned action days on **Wednesday 1 February 2023**. These arrangements apply to **Houlton School only**. Other TLET academies will have made their own decisions based on local intelligence and they will contact you directly if you have a child attending one of our other providers.

Union members are **not** obliged to tell me whether it is their intention to take strike action or not. However, many of our staff have helpfully given me notice of their current intentions, which has supported me with planning for the day.

At present, Houlton School anticipates **being open to all pupils** on Wednesday 1 February 2023. However, **there will be some changes to the curriculum during the day, and to the co-curricular offer we deliver on this day:**

- The Refectory team will be in school as usual, so **there will be a normal service on this day for breakfast, break and lunchtime;**
- Breakfast club, supervised by the inclusion team, **will run as usual;**
- Lunchtime co-curricular clubs will **not** run with the exception of 'quiet lunch', which will run as usual;
- After school co-curricular clubs will **not** run with the exception of study support, which will run as usual;
- In addition to the usual study support provision after school, we **will open the Malcolm Hancock Centre for Communications** for any pupil who would usually stay for a co-curricular club and cannot get home at the end of school. They may read quietly or use the computers.

It is possible that some colleagues who do not currently intend to take strike action may change their minds between now and the day itself. Should any of these plans change between now and then I will be back in touch.

Important – please note

In the unlikely event that there are a number of unexpected staff absence calls on the morning of the strike action itself, **we may have to close** partially, or in full, at short notice. **We will send a message by 7.45am via *Edulink*, update our website and post via our three main social media channels of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram**, so please keep your eye on these channels on the morning just in case.

I apologise for the disruption this action will cause to your child's usual lessons, but assure you that they will receive the same energised, purposeful and engaging experience on the day that they usually would. Rest assured, we will work with those pupils in school who find disrupted days more challenging ahead of the day to ensure that they are informed and prepared for the different arrangements.

If you have any questions, please contact us in the usual way hello@houltonschool.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Michael McCulley
Principal