

Houlton School
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Michael McCulley
Principal

Registered in England
Company number 07515832

24 April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Arrangements for Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May 2023

As you are aware from my 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 plans for the **fifth** and **sixth** of the planned action days on **Thursday 27 April** and **Tuesday 2 May 2023**. The arrangements below 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.

Unfortunately, following an unsuccessful round of talks with the government, NEU have rejected a revised offer from the government. Consequently, the national response is intensifying to the teacher funding, recruitment and retention crisis and this has impacted on us locally here at Houlton School.

On this occasion, we do **not** have sufficient staffing confirmed in school for the forthcoming strike days to be able to open to pupils. Therefore, Houlton School will be **closed to most pupils** in Years 7 and 8 on this occasion.

Vulnerable Pupils and Children of Front Line Emergency Service/Educational Settings

We do have **some limited capacity** to supervise a small number of pupils if they cannot be accommodated at home on either day, including:

- vulnerable pupils (pupils entitled to the **Pupil Premium** Grant or children with an Education, Health Care Plan (**EHCP**)); and
- children of workers in the following professions: **front line emergency service roles**; staff working with children in **schools and educational settings**.

Any pupils in school who belong to the groups above who are attending school will access the same remote learning as their peers from computer rooms on campus, which will be supervised by school-based adults, though this may not be a qualified teacher.

If your child is vulnerable or you are a front-line worker, and you need to send your child to be in school, [please complete this online form](#) so that we know to expect them. Otherwise, we will assume they are accessing learning from home on this day.

I apologise for the disruption this action will cause to your child's usual lessons. Remote learning will be available via Edulink for both days, though this will not follow your child's usual timetable.

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

Yours faithfully



Michael McCulley
Principal