

# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG  
(01702) 606200 enquiries@shsb.org.uk www.shsb.org.uk

Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



24 April 2023

Dear Parent

### Industrial Action – Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May

As you will know, teacher members of the National Education Union are collectively undertaking lawful industrial action on Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May, withdrawing their labour in pursuance of a dispute with the Government regarding teacher salary levels and school funding.

In the period before the Easter holiday, the Secretary of State advanced an 'offer' seeking to settle the dispute. This was overwhelmingly rejected (nationally, by 98% of the NEU members), since when the Secretary of State has declined to resume negotiations. The NEU has indicated publicly that the industrial action scheduled this week and next could be 'called off' if talks resume; so please remain aware of that possibility.

I can confirm, first, that **provision for the Year 11 GCSE oral examinations will continue. Year 11 pupils** are required to be in school *only* when they are scheduled to be in the examination room, although they are welcome to be on site (in the Library or Pavilion) for revision and should plan to arrive well in advance.

However, **for all other pupils there will be no lesson provision on site.** The number of NEU members (49 teachers) who may join the strike and the consequent scale of the action, coupled with the level of uncertainty, is such that we cannot – with confidence – provide any class with both the majority of their timetabled lessons, or other provision, as well as the necessary supervision for those times when they are not being taught.

It is – naturally – especially important that **examination students (Years 11-13) make the very best use of these closure days for focussed, diagnostic, purposeful revision.** Teaching colleagues have already made strenuous effort to provide revision resources, lunchtime workshops, access to mentors and other supplementary forms of support. We have intentionally planned the commencement of 'study leave' in a way that maximises time in the classroom and are actively exploring other approaches that may mitigate the impact of the industrial action. We all hope the dispute will be resolved in the very near future.

All pupil absences will be recorded in a way that does not diminish their record of attendance. Pupils entitled to Free School Meals can expect to be provided with a voucher equivalent.



We do not anticipate being in a position to provide supplementary on-site supervision for any sub-group of pupils; but we will be communicating with the families of those where there may be additional concerns regarding the closure or previously identified needs.

**Teachers who are not striking will provide – using appropriate online resources and tools – worthwhile and productive learning activities for their classes.** The exact format of these tasks, activities and engagement is a matter of professional discretion; however, relevant directions for all these lessons are to be posted on Satchel One.

**Pupils will not know in advance which, if any, of their timetabled teachers will be available to provide 'lessons', so will need to remain attentive to what is posted on Satchel One** and will need to consider what else they might profitably do in any 'gaps' during the day. (No provision is to be made for the classes who are timetabled to be with those teachers who are on strike; nonetheless, pupils in such classes may well have pre-established access to worthwhile subject-related resources with which they may choose to engage.)

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bevan', followed by a period.

Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher