

# 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



30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parent

### Industrial Action – Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July

As you will know, teacher members of the National Education Union are planning industrial action on Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July, withdrawing their labour in pursuance of a dispute with the Government regarding teacher salary levels and school funding.

This week, the Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan MP, has written to schools, *“The Government will soon make a decision on teacher pay for next year ...”*; unfortunately that decision has not yet been made public and there has been no consultation with representatives of the profession to determine if her proposal will be sufficient.

This letter outlines our plans on the assumption that no such settlement is agreed. If the industrial action is ‘called off’, then all normal school activities will take place.

I can confirm, first, that **trips, residential and other off-site activities** planned for Wednesday and/or Friday will continue uninterrupted without detriment to those involved and with full staff coverage. Participant pupils and their parents will already have had relevant details from the trip organisers. I am grateful to those teachers, including NEU members, who have made this professional commitment. Likewise, I am appreciative of the support from staff that has enabled us to operate our normal ‘induction day’ for Year 6 on the Friday.

However, **for all other pupils there will be no lesson provision on site**. The number of NEU members potentially joining the strike, on one or both days, coupled with the level of uncertainty, is such that we cannot – with confidence – provide any class with both the majority of their timetabled lessons and the necessary supervision for those times when they are not being taught.

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.

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

Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher