



TAI/ts

24 January, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been informed by the NEU [National Education Union] that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Wednesday, 1 February, 2023.

This action is not against the school itself but is part of national industrial action organised by this trade union as part of their ongoing campaign for a fully-funded, above inflation pay rise.

There is no requirement on unions to inform us of which members of staff will take action, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members of unions to obey a strike call.

Neither the governing body nor the Headteacher is legally allowed to close the school 'in sympathy' with the strike and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the safety of our students. Southchurch High School must ensure the health and safety of its staff and students.

I have completed a thorough risk assessment, the outcome of which is that Southchurch High School will be **open for Year 10 and 11 students ONLY, except for vulnerable students and those children of frontline critical workers**, on Wednesday, 1 February, 2023, and will be closed to students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Students will be able to access work online through the website via 'Oak Academy'. It is my expectation that students will use the time constructively at home to complete school work during the day.

I have not taken this decision lightly and wish to apologise, unreservedly, on behalf of the Governing Body and the school.

The scheduled Year 8 student trip to the Secret Nuclear Bunker will go ahead as planned. Please note it is only those Year 8 students whose attendance has been confirmed on the trip who are expected to arrive to school at 9.00 am in full school uniform.

All students will be expected to return to school, as normal, on Thursday, 2 February, 2023.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Airoll  
**Interim Headteacher**