

TAI/ts

8 March, 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 for two days on Wednesday, 15 March, 2023 and Thursday, 16 March, 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 has a duty of care to 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, 15 March, 2023 and Thursday, 16 March, 2023, and will be closed to students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Please note that the school will be **closing early on Thursday, 16 March, 2023 at 2.00 pm** to both Year 10 and Year 11 students.

Years 7, 8 and 9 students will be able to access work online through the website via 'Oak Academy'. It is the school's 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.

All students will be expected to return to school, as normal, at 8.35 am on Friday, 17 March, 2023.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Airoll  
**Interim Headteacher**

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Interim Headteacher: Mrs T Airoll