



Newtownhamilton High School

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Monday 15th January 2024

Dear Year 8-12 Parent/Guardian

Re: Strike Action on Thursday 18th January 2024

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the five teaching unions in Northern Ireland. You may have seen coverage of this on the news and I wanted to inform you about the impact that this will have on our school.

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff members involved in this industrial action will therefore not undertake any duties. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

I have since spoken with the Chairperson of the Board of Governors and we have determined that **Newtownhamilton High School will be closed for face-to-face teaching for all pupils on Thursday 18th January 2024.**

Remote Learning

While it is expected that the majority of our teaching staff will take part in the strike action, it is noted that some teachers will be in school and will therefore deliver their normal Thursday timetabled lessons remotely. Unfortunately, I am unable to inform you what teachers will be working and delivering remote learning so therefore all Year 8-12 pupils should:

- Log into their respective subject Google Classrooms on Thursday (18th) from 9.05am
- Teachers who are not striking will have posted a message in their Google Classrooms asking pupils to log back in at the start of their timetabled lesson (eg Periods 2-3). If there is no message from a subject teacher by 9.05am, then pupils should assume that no work will be provided.
- Pupils should complete work that has been provided by non-striking teachers. These teachers will remain available during their respective timetabled lessons to answer any questions via Google Classroom.

Clearly this strike action is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. This is a very unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders. Taking strike action is not something that anyone would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw

Principal