



Newtownhamilton High School

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NEWRY, Co. Down

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Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Year 8-12 Parent/Guardian

Re: Strike Action on Wednesday 29th November 2023 (8.50am – 12.00 noon)

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the five teaching unions in Northern Ireland. You may have seen coverage of this in the news and I wanted to inform you about the impact that is likely to have at 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 from 8.50am to 12.00 noon on Wednesday 29th November 2023. Pupils should therefore report to school at 12 noon on this date as follows:**

12.00 noon	School Opens (No School Buses Available)
12.05-12.15pm	Registration with Form Teacher
12.15-12.50pm	Period 6
12.50-1.50pm	Lunch Breaks (Canteen Open) & Period 7
1.50-3.00pm	Periods 8-9
3.00pm	End of Lessons (School Buses Available)

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 Wednesday Period 1-4 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 Wednesday (29th) 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)