

3rd May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

NEU industrial action at City Academy

I am writing today with a further update regarding the industrial action that has been taking place at City Academy. Unfortunately, we have just been informed by the NEU that they will continue their planned strike action next week.

School leaders have continued to meet regularly with union representatives in an attempt to resolve the dispute and have contracted arbitration experts ACAS to mediate. Progress continues to be made, with agreement on 9 of the 11 asks. The two remaining asks concern changes to the directed time staff budget and revisions to the previously agreed timeline of an ongoing pay review.

We are disappointed that the NEU have decided to strike again despite the progress being made. Nevertheless, school leaders have negotiated in good faith throughout this process, despite the short timeframe and limited availability offered by the NEU, and it remains our view that agreement is within reach.

We are therefore writing to let you know that we are planning for school to be **closed to some pupils on the following days:**

Tuesday 7th May – closed to Years 8 and 9

Wednesday 8th May – closed to Years 7 and 8

Thursday 9th May – closed to Years 9 and 10

Although we have managed to keep school fully open during previous strike days, the start of the GCSE exam period means we must now make even more effort to minimise disruption and impact on students taking exams. We are also continuing to prioritise learning for our youngest students, for whom the impact of missed learning would be most significant.

It remains a matter of great sadness and frustration that our school community has been affected by this dispute, and I look forward to putting this behind us as soon as possible. In the meantime, I continue to be grateful to you for your patience and support.

Yours Sincerely



Ben Tucker, Principal

Pride, Honesty and Team Spirit

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