



29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

The NEU have announced two more strike days before the end of term on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

When strike action is announced the Leadership of the school must risk assess the safety of the students on site and the staff ratios to ensure safety. This also applies to any plans to move to virtual learning; we must still be able to safeguard all children sufficiently, whether learning online or in school.

At Dowdales, we have spent significant time considering all risks and with more than a third of our teaching staff in the NEU union we cannot open fully for students on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The previous strike days confirmed this was the correct course of action.

Therefore, the strike days on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 will be open for Year 10 students only and the school will be closed to Year 7 to 9. We will also continue with our preplanned primary event as this is for a small number of students.

On this day Year 10 should come to school as normal and their attendance will be monitored – as a normal school day. Year 10 students will be based in the gym and will attend lessons of the teachers who are not taking part in the strike. At other times students will be supervised, completing their own revision (or independent study) in the gym. They will be supervised by Senior Leaders and should come to school with their revision plans and resources. Students need to be aware that they may be in the gym for the majority of the day and the reality of their timetable will not be known until the morning of the strike. Therefore having revision guides, notes, folders with them is paramount to ensure a good use of time. In addition, the Furness College taster day (on the 5<sup>th</sup> July) and the support for the primary events will continue as normal.

For children in receipt of Free School Meals in Years 7 to 9, school meal equivalent of £2.60 will be issued via WONDE to spend in Tesco or Asda stores.

Thank you for your support, we realise this is a difficult time for all.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Aubrey  
Headteacher