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Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

June 2023

Dear parents/carers,

As I'm sure you are aware, the NEU teachers' union have declared a period of national strike action. The next days of strike action are on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July. I am sorry to inform you that Todmorden High School will be closed to all students in Year 7-10 on those two days, barring some exceptions. If the NEU give more guidelines after this letter and before the strike, we will contact you.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly but we are unable to provide adequate supervision for students with the forecasted staffing levels in school. We have consulted over this, of Todmorden High School's teaching staff well over 50% are NEU members. Heads are not permitted to ask staff if they will be in school. Consequently, we do not know how many teachers will be in school and we cannot ask other teachers to cover lessons. After long consideration, our only option is to close the school to all students except those detailed below.

We will be providing a small provision on both strike days for vulnerable students due to staffing numbers. If you feel your child fits these criteria, please email Emily Rawlinson at e.rawlinson@todhigh.co.uk.

Our planned transition day for new year 7 students joining us in September will go ahead with some amendments to ensure that the students are getting the transition experience that they deserve. This day will be staffed with senior leaders, support staff and a small number of staff who are not taking part in the strike days. We have consulted all the primary schools and they are in agreement.

We would like all other Todmorden High School students to use the days as a 'catch-up' day and use the time to complete online learning work on Sparx, GCSE Pod and Carousel as well as any previously set home learning tasks including making use of their knowledge organisers.

If your child receives free school meals please email Sian Broadbent to arrange for a packed lunch to be made up, you will be able to call in at school to collect this meal on the strike day - s.broadbent@todhigh.co.uk.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child and that their education will be disrupted on those days. I know that the current situation is frustrating, and I ask that our school community continues to support each other as best we can moving forward.

We are working closely with our union representatives and staff to minimise further disruption on any strike days that are planned for the future. I will continue to keep in touch with parents, carers and students regarding this.

Yours sincerely,

Gill Shirt
Headteacher



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