



31 January 2023

Dear parents / carers

I hope you are safe and well. As I'm sure you are aware from the media coverage that the NEU teachers' union have declared a period of national strike action. The first day of strike action is on Wednesday 1st February.

The strike action is in response to the dispute between unions and the government over the teachers' pay award being below current rates of inflation. We appreciate that this is the case in most professions at the moment, but this is seen as an opportunity for the teaching unions to join colleagues across the public sector to take action to improve the situation.

I am sorry to inform you that The Whitley AP Academy will be closed on Wednesday 1st February to all Key Stage Three pupils and your child will therefore not be able to come into school on that day. If your child has an EHCP or meets the criteria to be considered vulnerable, they can still attend school – if this is the case, please contact the school to let us know if you will be sending your child to school.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly but we are unable to provide enough staff and adequate supervision with the staff we have available on that day. Remote Learning will be available on the website on Wednesday morning for your child to complete at home.

We are working closely with our union representatives and staff to minimise further disruption on the remaining strike days, and I will keep you up to date with the situation as it develops.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and that their education will be disrupted on that day. I know that the current situation is frustrating, and I ask that our school community continues to support each other and treat each other with respect.

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hannah

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