



# RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will likely be aware, the NEU Teaching Union is instructing its teaching members to take part in national strike action on four days this term: 1st February, 28th February, 15th and 16th March. I think it important to stress again, from the outset, that this action is as a direct result of the NEU and its members being in dispute with the government, it is not directed at Range High School as an employer. Like all schools, we have a number of teachers who are members of the NEU and I now have some information relating to the number of colleagues who will be on strike on the second day of the action- the 28th February. As promised in my first letter, I am now getting in touch.

Having the best information to hand and having conducted a risk assessment based on this information and working in close conjunction with Mr Mackenzie at Formby High, it is my conclusion that it will not be possible to provide full time education on the 28th February here at school for students in Years 7 to 11 and to be able to ensure everyone's safety is maintained. There are strict limitations on what staff not striking can and can't do in such a situation and this of course further inhibits the smooth running of the school. Having discussed it with the Chair of Trustees, we have agreed that the school will be closed to students in Years 7-11 on that day. Colleagues on strike are not required to set work but some generic work that can be accessed from home will be set on ClassCharts for all students in each of those year groups- further details will be forthcoming. Your child's attendance figure will not be reduced as a result of this decision.

I can confirm, that although there will be some disruption, the vast majority of lessons in the Sixth Form will go ahead on that day and all students in Years 12 and 13 should attend school as normal. Mrs Phillips will give further instructions to all students in the Sixth Form this week.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we will release a £3 voucher per pupil. This will be actioned through a company called SchoolVouchers.com. You will receive either an email or text that contains the voucher application; you select the supermarket you wish to use and a voucher is then issued electronically to you for use with the retailer of your choice.

I appreciate that this situation is far from ideal and I am sorry for any disruption this causes but please understand that the health and safety of everyone on the school site is of the utmost importance. I will communicate with you nearer the time about the next strike days- the 15th and 16th March. If we find ourselves in a different position with staffing levels, we will look at the possibility of opening the school to certain year groups on these days.

I can only hope that negotiations between the teaching unions and the government will bring all planned industrial action to a swift conclusion. Obviously if the dispute was to be resolved



before the 28th February, school would re-open as normal. In the event of such a scenario, I will be in touch.

Again, I apologise for the inconvenience this may cause but once again reiterate that the safety and safeguarding of everyone on site is paramount at all times.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McGarry", with a long, sweeping underline that curves back to the left.

Mike McGarry  
Headteacher