



April 2023

Dear Families,

I recently wrote to you explaining that there was national strike action on Thursday 27th April and that this Tuesday 2nd May would disrupt the Academy.

The unions and government still appear to be deadlocked in their positions and with no talks planned it seems very likely that these strikes will go ahead.

The latest guidance is to prioritise examination groups and so as with the last two strike days we will be **opening the Academy to the majority of Year 10 students**. We are putting on a bespoke programme where we have asked staff to request students in subjects where they need a boost or where they have coursework. As some staff are on strike, we are doing this where we have capacity.

It is extremely important that students identified attend these sessions. In some cases, it is a vital part of their coursework. Students and families will be notified by 12:00 noon on Tuesday if they are required to attend.

We do not feel we will have enough staffing to be able to provide onsite learning for Years 7, 8 and 9 and these students should stay home during the day for remote learning.

We will as I mentioned in my previous letter have provision available for vulnerable students and those of critical workers. If you feel you have no alternative options and fit one of these categories, please contact the Academy main reception at info@wbca.shirelandcat.net.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we will be sending out a voucher to the value of £2.50 for each day to cover the cost of the meal your child would have had with us.

Work for students during the Closure:

I understand how frustrating the closures must be. This is not a dispute of the Academy's making but a national issue. There is likely to be more disruption as the NEU has announced that there will be three further days in late June. In addition, unions from the NAHT, ASCL and NASUWT are currently balloting for action which may create further disruption.

If there is a last-minute change which averts the strike, we will of course let you know as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

George Faux
Principal