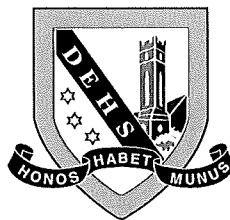


Acting Head Teacher:
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DOUGLAS-EWART
HIGH SCHOOL
CORSBIE ROAD
NEWTON STEWART
DG8 6JQ

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware through the media that there is strike action planned for next week. Staff involved in this industrial action within the Douglas-Ewart High School include learning assistants, administration staff, technicians, janitors, cleaners and catering staff. These staff groups provide vital support services to education and are essential to ensure the normal operations of our schools and early learning and childcare facilities.

The planned strikes will take place on:

- **Tuesday 26 September 2023**
- **Wednesday 27 September 2023**
- **Thursday 28 September 2023**

Not all members of staff are members of the Trade Union and some staff may choose not to strike. As such, the impact that the strike will have on our school is an unknown. This makes it difficult to ensure we have the correct staff in place to open safely.

Considering all the factors and unknowns I have concluded I cannot safely open the school to the pupils for the three days. The safety of the pupils is my main consideration. Class teachers will set work for remote learning and pupils should ensure that they are online and checking Teams for any work posted. It is crucial that pupils complete the work set so that teaching and learning can move forward. Class teachers will communicate directly with the pupils via Teams and will be available for messaging throughout the day if required.

If any pupil will struggle to access Teams, can they please make themselves known to their student Support Teacher so that an alternative arrangement can be made. Teams can be accessed via your phone or through a tablet or laptop/computer.

A financial payment will be made to those who receive Free School Meals via qualifying benefits. This payment will be made to the relevant bank accounts within 7 days of the last strike day. For families who require food support over the strike days, please see Food Bank locations and contact details at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/25586/Food-Banks>

Our S3 Parents' night will also be postponed. I will look to arrange a date in the near future and communicate directly with the S3 parents once I have identified a suitable date.

I remain hopeful that there can be a resolution and if there is any change, I will communicate that to you.

With regards,

S. Foster
Acting Head Teacher