

Castleman Academy Trust

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Dear All,

31 January 2023

Over the past weeks, we have been monitoring the situation with regard to numbers of staff striking. This has been a difficult task as staff are under no obligation to inform us of their intentions, nor are we legally allowed to ask them. It has always been our intention to remain open to as many pupils as possible.

Nevertheless, Headteachers have risk assessed the staffing levels in their schools for Wednesday, 1st February and have had to make decisions based on information available to us at this time, about availability of cover and pupil to adult ratios.

Therefore, at present, the following arrangements are in place at **Broadstone Middle School** on Wednesday, 1st of February.

Dawn Wilks wrote to families yesterday to explain that Year 5 would need to close and other classes will have disruption. Since this time, we have been informed that more teachers are now intending to strike. Teachers do not need to inform schools of their intentions and we are extremely grateful to those teachers who have indicated their decision in order to allow us to plan in advance and update parents ahead of time.

Due to the numbers of teachers striking, coupled with high levels of absence, we will need to close Broadstone Middle School at 1.05 pm tomorrow. We are unable to cover UBC modules or tutor periods in the afternoon. In addition, we have mapped where classes will be affected by known strike action.

As it currently stands all classes will have at least one lesson disrupted by strike action and many will have two. For these lessons, pupils will be supervised in the hall.

If we are made aware of further changes, we will update you. Please be prepared that in the event of teachers making a decision to strike and not informing the school until the morning, which is their right to do, this will mean that we may need to inform you to collect your child from school in the morning and it would be prudent that you have alternative childcare arrangements in place, in case.

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is gathering of staff near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents that as a school we respect our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are as courteous and respectful as they are on any other day.

At this stage, we have not made any decisions regarding the remaining days of proposed industrial action. We will continue to follow national guidance and make decisions about each individual planned day, closer to the time.

I understand the concerns expressed by many of you and I am grateful for your understanding and support.

We will update you in the morning of any further changes, as early as we possibly can.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Rhonda Moore
Chief Executive Officer



Ferndown
Middle School

