



Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A busy week in school and some updates for you:

Industrial action in schools next week.

As I mentioned last week, the National Education Union (NEU) has announced strike action in the North West and England on the following dates: 1st February; 28th February; and 15th and 16th March 2023. This is not action against the school but is about concerns over teachers' pay and working conditions and the funding levels for schools.

I am therefore sharing our provisional plans for operating safely and sensibly on the first strike day – Wednesday, 1 February. The only basis for closing a school is if it cannot be **safely** operated and all schools will take different approaches depending upon the number of NEU members within each school. I have been informed at this stage that a significant number of our teachers are joining the strike on this day and based on this evidence there is a high probability that the school will be **closed for all students** except possibly those who are most vulnerable.

The school may be open for students in all years who have an Education, Health and Care Plan, are Looked After Children or where safeguarding needs are otherwise identified by school; if this is the case, these families and carers will be notified in advance.

I must make it clear however, that these plans may change nearer the time, or even on the day of the strike, depending on any new information I receive or if there are any changes to the national position of the NEU. We will notify you in due course of remote learning arrangements where staff not involved in the industrial action are available to set work online.

Incident in school

Sadly, and for the first time in a long time, a small number of boys were involved in a fight in school during Key Stage 4 break time on Wednesday. Thanks to the rapid response of our staff, the incident was entirely closed down within 44 seconds of starting, however this kind of behaviour is wholly unacceptable in our school. The situation was not helped by those bystanders who crowded in to see what was happening!

Unfortunately a couple of members of staff were unintentionally caught in the crossfire as they intervened; both are absolutely fine (thank you to all the pupils who asked after them on the day), however no one should be put in that position. All pupils involved have been swiftly identified and severely dealt with and I have spoken to both year groups about their conduct within our school, both to acknowledge how brilliant the vast majority are and to remind them that we all have a part to play in maintaining our school's safe and inclusive environment. I was also able to thank those pupils who quickly acted in a positive and helpful way despite the brief disruption to their breaktime – superstars!

Music news

Earlier this month, our budding musicians were treated to a performance by the Halle Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall. The students were amazed to watch a full orchestra performing in such an incredible venue. One student said that they would be writing to the orchestra to let them know how amazing they were and another told staff 'that's going to be me one day.' The afternoon was enjoyed by all and the department will now make this an annual event - obviously we're hoping to watch our very own musicians there one day!



Learn with Lords

Last Friday a group of students from Year 9 and 10 took part in the Learn With Lords programme. We were visited by Baroness Newlove, who discussed issues such as the current strike action, issues with the NHS, Brexit and young carers. Students were particularly keen to talk about antisocial behaviour and support for victims. We were very impressed by the maturity and passion some of our students displayed during the session, and have a number of issues we will now continue to take forward with individual students.

Reminder to Year 11 parents and carers

If you haven't yet given permission via ParentPay for your child to take part in the Revision, Study Skills and Wellbeing Day at Clarendon College on 17th February, the deadline is Thursday 9th February. There is no charge for this trip and all Year 11 students are expected to attend.

Considerate parking

We have been asked to request that parents who are collecting their children from school do not park on the mini roundabout where Old Road meets Lodge Lane. Pedestrian pathways are being blocked making it difficult for parents with prams and small children heading to or from Flowery Field Primary School to get past safely. Thank you to all those who park respectfully at the end of our school day.

Library Books

A polite reminder to send in any overdue library books please so that they can be reused. There is a black box in the dining area where books can be deposited at any time.

Sports Bulletin

Well done to the Under 14 Boys Basketball team who qualified for the elite "Cup Competition" after finishing second place on Thursday evening at Copley, losing only one match to a very strong West Hill team.

Next Weeks Fixtures:

Tuesday: Year 11 Boys' Football vs Mossley Hollins (home) in the Tameside Cup Quarter Final

Thursday: Under 14 Boys' Basketball finals at Alder

Careers Information and Guidance

Tuesday's assembly for Year 10 was delivered by the Greater Manchester ASK programme (Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge) and 6th February - 12th February is National Apprenticeship Week with the theme of 'Skills For Life'.

If you or your child would like more information about applying for an apprenticeship please follow this click [here](#).

Finally, as I sign off for the weekend, I would like to make parents and carers aware that after 34 years at Hyde, I have taken the difficult decision to retire from the role of Headteacher at the end of this academic year. I remain as passionate as ever about our fabulous school and about providing the best possible education for our brilliant pupils and it has been a privilege to serve the community of Hyde for over three decades, but it is now time for someone else to take on this exciting challenge and continue Hyde High School's positive journey. Our Board of Governors will now begin the process of recruiting a new Headteacher for September; I will support this process in any way I can and will update you when an appointment has been made.

Wishing all of our pupils and families a lovely weekend,

Best wishes,

Andrea Radcliffe

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Headteacher