



# DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Two new days of industrial action are planned to take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Again, we have taken the decision to remain open to all year groups and expect all students to attend at their normal school times.**

However, members of the union taking action cannot be compelled to say whether they are striking until the actual day of action. We will endeavour to open to all year groups, however there are circumstances where this may not be possible for a number of reasons. Some of those are:

- Members of the National Education Union do not need to tell the school if they are striking or not.
- There could potentially be a picket line at the front of school that staff may choose not to cross.
- Staff can change union on the day of the strike to enable them to partake in the industrial action.
- Staff do not need to notify the academy of which union they are in or if they will be striking.

We will only know for definite when staff arrive for work at 8:30am on the Thursday and Tuesday mornings if we can open as planned. **Should your child arrive at the academy on Thursday or Tuesday morning for an 8:45 start and we are in a position where we will be unable to open fully, we will notify all parents in affected year groups by text by 9:15am. Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) will definitely remain in school. Should partial closure be required we will close KS3 with year 7 being affected first. We would only shut to year 9 and 8 if absolutely necessary and in that order.**

As a result, it is imperative we have the correct contact number for you. (We should have a minimum of two on our system to use as contacts). We would intend to let the students make their own way home, should you require us to keep your child for a period of time whilst you arrange a pickup you will need to notify school immediately after receiving a text. If you receive no text, then school is open for your children. Requests to keep students should be made to [contact@darwenvale.com](mailto:contact@darwenvale.com) and should contain the students full name and year group. All students will be required to leave the site by 9:45am. Should we have no contact we will assume your child can make their own way home and you have alternative arrangements in place for childcare. The Academy will be unable to keep your children for the full day so you will need to have arrangements in place, should the worst happen, and we are unable to open fully.

We remain exceptionally optimistic and **fully expect to be open** to all year groups, but it would be remiss of us as an educational provider not to warn you of the potential risk of closure due to the unforeseen reasons, which may occur, listed above. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

Should students be sent home we will be provided work on our website which will be clearly signposted and is also attached to this email. For all students, attendance at school is mandatory.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Little  
Principal