



29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

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WWW.ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

**Industrial Action Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July & Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

As you are aware there continues to be planned industrial action scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July. We are now in a position to confirm the arrangements for the education of our students for these days.

Arden will only be open for the following:

- All students in Year 10
- All students in Years 12 - including those participating in the geography field study visit which will still go ahead
- Students in Years 7-9 who are identified as a priority group or who are educationally vulnerable - these students' families will be contacted individually
- All students (Y7-13) who are rehearsing for the school production must attend (these students should register with Mrs Warrender/Miss Jones)

Students should arrive for the usual start times (Wednesday - 9am, Friday - 8.40am)

Students attending as above will be able to access catering facilities for lunchtime in the main school canteen (the Sixth Form students' canteen will only be open for drinks).

**For all other students in Years 7, 8 and 9**, learning will be set on Edulink and Google Classroom, as for the previous strike days. The way the days will work will be the same as the format for the previous strike days. A summary of this is provided below:

- **We expect the students to be in their school uniform as they would be for a normal school day.**
- Where children and staff are able to, learning will be delivered through a live Google Meet.
- Inevitably some students will find that there is not a remote lesson available to them as their teacher is involved in the industrial action. In such instances we are asking students to make the most of our on-line learning platforms such as SENECA and Sparks Maths and specific instructions will be placed on Edulink.
- **Students should complete work during the day at the usual school day times (see below) and it is important that they follow all instructions on Edulink so that we can monitor attendance to lessons**
- The structure of the school day will be as follows, to enable students' movement breaks between lessons.

Period 1	9:05 - 9:55am
Period 2	10:05 - 10:55am
Break	10:55 - 11:25am
Period 3	11:25am - 12:15pm



Lunch	12:15 - 1:30pm
Period 4	1:30 - 2:20pm
Period 5	2:30 - 3:20pm

Those who are unable to access learning remotely because of the lack of an electronic device should contact school before Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 12pm - please email [office@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@arden.solihull.sch.uk). We are unable to guarantee that we will be able to provide resources but will seek to make arrangements to enable learning to take place.

Please may we ask that you as parents/guardians and also your children read the following information which comes from the section of our website that relates to online learning at home:

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Files/Information/Online-Learning-at-Home-During-Enforced-School-Closures-Guidance-and-Expectations.pdf>

Additional support regarding the online learning at home can be found on our school website:

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/information/online-learning-at-home/>

As was the case with the other days of industrial action, we would like to reiterate that we recognise that the industrial action causes inconvenience and frustration. We would like to again assure you that we have thoroughly considered a wide range of options and feel that this course of action is the best option in terms of learning and in terms of maintaining a safe environment for all, in other words ensuring we have sufficient numbers of staff to supervise the children.

Following the previous industrial action days, we have a good understanding of the extent of the number of staff likely to be involved in industrial action and therefore not in work on these days next week. We have considered this and mapped this against our curriculum in reaching the decision that we have with regards to which year groups we can safely and effectively accommodate in school.

We also wish to again stress that colleagues involved in the industrial action are not in dispute with the school, but are in fact in dispute with the Government over both teachers' salaries and educational funding.

We appreciate that such closures may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Arden. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit the impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Once again, we thank you for your patience and support.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Warwood**  
Associate Headteacher