

Friday, 25 November 2011

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Academy Closed to Students on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 due to Strike Action by the ATL, GMB, NASUWT, NUT and UNISON**

I am writing to inform you that on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, the Academy will be closed to all students. This is due to the strike action that is being taken by the ATL, GMB, NASUWT, NUT and UNISON across England in connection with their dispute over the proposed changes to public sector pension schemes.

Along with the rest of Solihull, our aim is to continue to deliver services to the public during the strike and minimise any disruption, particularly to students. However, whilst trying to achieve this, we also need to ensure that we provide a healthy, safe and secure environment for our young people.

We have therefore decided that the Academy will be closed to students on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. **The Academy will be open and all students should attend as normal on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November along with Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

We have not taken this decision lightly. However, in assessing the potential risks posed to the students' health and safety caused by the strike, we felt that it was the best course of action available. You might already be aware that members of TUC affiliated Trade Unions will not cover for colleagues who are on strike and that the Academy is prohibited from using supply teachers to deal with the situation. As a result, our only options are to use non-unionised teachers and members of the Leadership Team to cover the striking staff or to close the Academy to some students. In this case, owing to such a large number of staff taking strike action, it will be impossible to cover classes and also adequately provide for everyone's health and safety across the Academy.

We realise that this will cause serious inconvenience to parents/carers, but we hope that you understand the difficulty of the situation and that we have not taken the decision lightly.

We thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Morrison, Principal