



# Downs View

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10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Notification of school and college closure for most students on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

As you will be aware, the National Education Union (NEU) have two further scheduled days of industrial action on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This action relates to the continuing dispute with the Secretary of State for Education.

All staff at Downs View take our students' education very seriously and would only enter into strike action as a last resort. The vast majority of the teaching staff in our school/college are members of the NEU and will therefore support the industrial action. As a consequence of this, and based on an assessment of the risks involved, regrettably we will have to close the school and colleges to most students on both days. There are a small number of students that will be in school on these days, those parents will be contacted separately.

In making this decision I have completed a risk assessment to inform planning and I have taken into account a number of factors:

- The number of teachers striking
- The number of teachers and support staff who will be unable to attend work due to their child's school being closed
- My inability to guarantee a safe environment for learning

We do understand that school/college closure will create difficulties for many families who may have to make alternative provisions for the care of their children. We appreciate that this could result in you having to take time off work or rely on the kindness and help of family and friends.

This is why we want to inform you as early as possible that as the situation currently stands, the school/college will have to close because we will not have sufficient teaching staff to deliver lessons and keep students safe.

We are working closely with our union representatives to keep up to date with the situation and so if anything changes, we will, of course, inform you straight away.

Kind regards

*Vanessa*

Vanessa Hickey  
Executive Headteacher

