



Headteacher: Mr N. Holder
Chair of Governors: Mrs G. Hossack

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Friday 6th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great regret that I write to inform you that the Academy will be closed to Year 9 and Year 10 students on Tuesday 10th March and Thursday 12th March 2020 due to strike action by teachers who are members of the NASUWT union. All students in our Autism Spectrum Provision should attend the academy as normal. I sincerely apologise for the short notice, but this is as a result of our ongoing attempts to avoid strike action, continuing right up to this afternoon.

As you are aware, we are a school which requires improvement and since my arrival in January 2018, I have made changes to improve the Academy's overall performance. We have many excellent, committed, professional staff who work tirelessly at Farringdon Community Academy in the interests of your children. Unfortunately, we are in dispute with some staff around our commitment to ensuring high quality teaching and learning through: improved Performance Management and monitoring practices; high expectations in relation to planning, marking and feedback and a commitment to ensuring all staff are supported in becoming outstanding practitioners.

Although not all members of the union voted to strike, we are uncertain how many members will take strike action, therefore, we are left with no choice but to reduce school operations. I appreciate that this will cause some of you great inconvenience and I apologise that we have had to take this decision. However, as I am sure you understand, my primary concern is for the safety and well-being of all students and, therefore, I have no alternative but to put these plans in place.

It is worthy of note that no other trade union is supporting the on-going industrial action which the NASUWT is pursuing.

Information for Year 7-8 students

Over these two days, we have organised a programme of enrichment activities for students to support their development in wider skills. Year 7 and Year 8 students should bring their PE kit into school on these two dates.



Information for Year 11 students

Year 11 Mocks will continue to run alongside revision and personal study and development opportunities.

	AM	PM
Tuesday 10th March	English/ Maths seminars and workshops	Mathematics 3
Thursday 12th March	English Literature	English/ Maths seminars and revision workshops

Information for Autism Spectrum Provision students

Over these two days, we have organised a programme of enrichment and social activities for students to support their development in wider skills as well as their Education Health Care Plan outcomes. Students should wear their school uniforms and bring school bags and equipment as usual.

We have tried to engage and work with the NASUWT to discuss their concerns and to try to seek a resolution, but this has proved to be impossible, with the union being unwilling to agree a compromise. We are confident, as an Academy, that we are acting within DfE guidelines whilst being unwavering in our commitment to high standards and expectations of all.

Given that we are doing our best to improve the Academy and that the decision has now been taken out of our hands by the NASUWT. If you have any concerns then you should write to the NASUWT, to outline the real impact of this action on your children and your family. Mr John Hall's e-mail address is john.hall@exec.nasuwt.org.uk

Again, please allow me to apologise for any inconvenience caused to you and your children. I will keep you informed of any changes that I may have to make over the coming week. I would like you to be made aware in advance of the NASUWT's plan for a further three days of action on 24th, 25th and 26th March 2020. If this action is to go ahead, it would be our intention to review the provision we can offer, particularly for Years 9 and 10 so that we can keep the disruption of our students' education to a minimum.

Yours sincerely,



Mr N. Holder
Headteacher