



BELFAST MODEL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Principal: Ms P Stuart, B. Ed, PQH NI, M. Ed

6th February 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to inform you that due to planned ½ day industrial strike action on **Tuesday 21st February 2023** by teaching trade union members across the whole of Northern Ireland, a sufficient level of assistance will not be available during the morning session to safely supervise students and deliver lessons as per the timetable.

Whilst the unions have collectively tried to minimise the direct impact on children and young people, the ability of schools to fully operate as normal has been impacted. In support of this action, all timetabled lessons will be suspended from 8.45am – 12.15pm. **Students should not attend school until 12.15pm.** School meals and buses will be at the normal times on that day, so there will be no bus at 12.00noon to bring students to school. Lessons will be as per timetable Period 5 – Period 9. Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding.

Your child's attendance record will not be affected by this action. It is most important for you to ensure that your child attends school as normal during the rest of that week, Monday - Friday.

Please note: The school will be open and facilities for independent supervised study will be made available to a small, **limited** number of students, should they wish to attend, who are **unable to remain at home** at that time. Students, who come to school that morning to use the facilities for study, must enter via the front doors at the main foyer and sign into the school site as soon as they arrive. A logbook will be held at the school main office.

As there are only a few places available, priority will be given to students who

- Have a statement of Special Educational Need
- Are Looked After Children
- Are known to Social Services or the Health Trust
- Have ongoing safeguarding or child protection issues
- Are Newcomers

Please contact the school office to book a place for independent supervised study by no later than 12.00noon Friday 10th February 2023.

A strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.





BELFAST MODEL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Principal: Ms P Stuart, B. Ed, PQH NI, M. Ed

The teaching staff and school leadership want to see an end to this period of dispute, with an award of fair pay, improved working terms and conditions and a return to normal school life as soon as possible. To this end, I ask you to write to our employers to urge them to immediately resolve this dispute.

You can use the following addresses:

Sara Long, CEO: Education Authority, 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ
sara.long@eani.org.uk

Mark Browne, Permanent Secretary: DENI, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7PR
mark.browne@education-ni.gov.uk

The school leadership will endeavour to keep parents and guardians up to date with any changes, as they occur, to the ongoing industrial action within schools. We are confident that in working together, in partnership with parents and one another, we can secure 'Achievement for all'

Yours faithfully,

Paula Stuart
Principal

