

Friday 3rd March 2023

Dear SGS Forest families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

National Education Union strike days

My apologies again for having to change our plan for yesterday's strike day. As a parent myself, I really do appreciate the difficult decisions like this cause, especially when taken at short notice.

We had worked very hard to repeat the success of the first strike day by remaining open to all students, but the national causes of school funding and teachers' pay for which the NEU is striking appear to be gaining momentum, so I could not guarantee being able to staff the school safely this time.

The next two strike days are scheduled for Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. This is during Year 11's mock exam period. In order to guarantee the success of these important exams for Year 11 and to run the school safely, I have therefore decided that **we will only be open to Year 11 and Year 7 on both days.** Years 8, 9 and 10 should remain at home; work will be set for them on ClassCharts by staff who are in school on those days.

Good news

Students are now able to buy a main meal and dessert at lunchtimes for a reduced combined price of £2.40.

More good news

Year 8 students have been invited to take part in a **Gloucestershire music showcase** at Cheltenham Town Hall later this month, even though they have only been having instrumental lessons with us since September. Well done to all these students: we are very proud of them.

And more good news

It is that time of year when Gloucestershire County Council confirms secondary school places for new Year 7s this September. I am delighted to let you know that **a record 87%** of our new Year 7 families chose us as their first preference. This is testament to our great progress as a community – staff, students, parents and carers – in making SGS Forest a school where **every child matters.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours,

Alan Dane
Headteacher