

June 29th 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

PARTIAL SCHOOL CLOSURE ON TUESDAY, JULY 5TH 2016

I have been informed by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) that they will be taking industrial action on Tuesday, July 5th 2016. This action is not against Joseph Leckie Academy but is part of National industrial action. NUT members in England have voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action. The strike demands are to increase funding to schools and education, guarantee terms and conditions in all types of schools, and to resume negotiations on teacher contracts to allow workload to be addressed.

A significant number of staff will take strike action on that day and as a result of my assessment of potential risks, **I have decided to partially close Joseph Leckie Academy to Years 8, 9 10 and 11 students for the school day on July 5th 2016. Students in these years should not attend on that day.**

Students in Year 7, 12/13 should attend school as normal. Year 12 will be involved in various planned educational visits and Year 13 vocational students will remain in the library or other supervised room if a lesson is not available. **The planned Induction Day for Year 6 pupils will go ahead as planned.**

The canteen will offer a reduced service on the day for those in school, including a free school meal for those in receipt of Free School Meals. Full uniform should be worn as normal.

Neither the Governing Body nor the Principal is legally allowed to close the Academy in sympathy with the strike and I do not intend to do so. My concern is the safety of our students. It will not be possible to run normal lessons on the day for all of our students hence my decision to have only Years 7, 12/ 13 plus Year 6 pupils involved in their Induction Day in the Academy on that day.

Regulations relating to industrial action also make it difficult to cover lessons and so the position is more complex than simply dealing with a reduced number of adults on the Academy's site.

Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience that this causes you and your family. The Academy will be open as normal for the rest of the week.

Yours sincerely

Keith Whittlestone
Principal