



The Halifax Academy

[www.thehalifaxacademy.org](http://www.thehalifaxacademy.org)

Dear Families

Next week sees the second strike on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. Staff who are striking are taking a stand for your children, to make sure education is funded properly.

As I mentioned previously, here are some of the ways the lack of funds affects all of us:

- In July, the Government offered most teachers a pay rise of 5%. This sounds generous but, with inflation soaring, this actual means a 5% pay cut. This comes on the back of many years of cuts; teacher salaries have actually fallen by 23% in real terms since 2010. I know that many of you will also be feeling the impact of the cost-of-living crisis: the rising energy bills, the massive increase in food bills. Teachers at school are no different. The new proposal is only 3%.
- The July pay increase was not funded by the Government – this means that they did not give the school any extra money to pay for it. This, alongside the increased school energy costs, means that, to put it simply, we do not have enough money to run the school as we do at the moment. We are therefore forced to make savings, including leaving roles vacant when staff leave. This means that staff who are in school are having to do more, for less pay.
- It is getting harder to find and keep staff. A third of teachers are leaving the profession within five years. This year, the government only managed to recruit a third of the teachers they need for teacher training. We are lucky that we have excellent teachers, but we want to keep them, and in some subjects like science and maths, recruitment is increasingly difficult.

This underfunding puts all of us under pressure until it becomes unsustainable.

On the **Tuesday 28th February**, the arrangements will be as follows:

**Primary phase** – full opening.

**Y7** – Home Learning. Work will be set on Teams and students can do Sparks Maths, Hegarty Maths, Educake or Bedrock.

**Y8** – Home Learning. Work will be set on Teams and students can do Sparks Maths, Hegarty Maths, Educake or Bedrock.

**Y9** – Home Learning. Work will be set on Teams and students can do Sparks Maths, Hegarty Maths, Educake or Bedrock.

**Y10** – In school. They will have a full day in their GCSE short course option.

**Y11** – In school. They will have a timetable of English, Maths and Science.



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We don't want to strike. We want to be in the classroom teaching your children. We want to make sure that every single student at The Halifax Academy gets the best possible education possible. Going on strike is not an easy decision for anyone to take, but I hope that you understand our reasons and support us over the coming weeks.

Together, we need to take a stand. We need to use our voice to say that your children deserve a properly funded education.

Mr Perry