

Our ref: CDC/EFO
24 April 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Start of Term Letter

As we start this new term, I would like to update you with the leadership changes at the Academy. I have returned to Chantry in my role as Executive Headteacher. Meanwhile, Mr Hanson has returned to the role of Head of School. I would like to thank him for his leadership over the last 12 months during my secondment. His dedication and strong values have ensured the school remains at the centre of the community, serving our students and offering high quality learning for all.

The belief in collective responsibility runs deep within the ethos of the community. We are stronger together than we are as individuals. This was the theme of the whole school assembly last week. There is an African proverb which states, "It takes a village to raise a child", as we discussed this with your children, we stressed the importance of the whole community, including parents, health, charitable and social organisations working together to benefit the students. These are challenging times, and it is important that we maintain the standards and expectations so that school is a place of normality.

This term we prepare our year 11 students for the final stretch of their GCSEs whilst ensuring all other students make the most of the opportunities we provide.

I am sure you will be aware from recent media reports that the National Education Union (NEU), the largest education union in the UK has declared further strike action, with proposed strike days as follows:

- Thursday 27 April 2023
- Tuesday 2 May 2023

The planned strike action is a result of a national dispute between the unions and the government, and not The Active Learning Trust. However, it is important that we respond accordingly, and as such, the senior leadership team at Chantry Academy has been working closely with staff in order to plan for these days.

We understand that a significant number of colleagues will be taking industrial action. We have looked at the school timetable for both days to ensure we can still manage the safe supervision of students, whilst minimising the impact on learning with reduced staffing levels in place.

Currently, if the strike action goes ahead, although our school can remain open, we will put the following arrangements in place:

Chantry Academy
Executive Headteacher: Mr C D'Cunha
Head of School: Mr R Hanson
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- The Academy will be open for all Year 11 students (please ensure students bring their laptops into school as usual)
- The Academy will be open for some Y10 lessons – you will be contacted directly from the Head of Department via Parentmail
- The school will be open to those students who have been contacted by our safeguarding team.
- Students who have Alternative Provision (e.g. PLOT, Construction) which are held offsite will continue to access their curriculum.
- Years 7 to 9 will be set work online which can be completed at home. Alternatively, students can access work via The Oak National Academy for their appropriate year group <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year>

The Academy will put measures in place to support students on free school meals in Years 7 to 10.

I apologise for the need to make changes to the school day and for any inconvenience this causes you. It appears unlikely the proposed industrial action will be averted, but if this were to happen, I will write to you to confirm that the school will be open as usual.

If you have any questions or concerns about the alternative arrangements outlined above, please contact the school on admin@chantryacademy.org

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

C D'Cunha

C D'Cunha
Executive Headteacher