

25th November, 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you will have picked up in the national and local media, public sector unions have called on all their members to support the Day of Action on Wednesday, 30th November, 2011. Given the national context it is with deep regret and disappointment that I have to inform you of the College's **closure to students in Years 8 to 11 inclusive.**

Unfortunately, due to the lack of specialist subject teachers, the demands of health and safety requirements and the direct instructions from Unions to staff not to cover for colleagues lessons, we have no option but to close the College to the majority of our students.

However, with the support of our Governors we have chosen to remain **open to all students in Years 12, 13 and Year 7.** We are also remaining open to all staff who have informed us that they will be attending as normal.

Sixth Form will have the opportunity to sit internal exams and attend an independent study day and Year 7 will have a special 'drop down' day of their own. This will be different to their normal lessons and usual curriculum. **Please ensure Sixth Form and Year 7 students attend as usual.**

Nearly all the Associate Staff and many teachers have taken the decision to come into College on Wednesday. For those who have chosen otherwise it is their legal right to withdraw their labour. As Principal, I am unable to agree with striking as a method of making a point and so I too shall be in College as will my colleagues who have chosen to attend.

I realise that the Day of Action will inevitably cause frustration for many. I can only highlight the fact that the last strike proposed by Unions was in fact ignored by the staff at Earl Mortimer College and we were only one of a very few schools to remain open in Herefordshire.

The decision to be partially open to Years 12,13 and Year 7 has not been taken lightly. It is with great regret that the day will cause disruption to both students and their families.

The Governors and staff attending College on Wednesday will do their utmost to make the best of a less than perfect situation but I would ask all parties to show forbearance and patience in this difficult situation.

Yours sincerely,

**A LONG
PRINCIPAL**



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