



Principal's Bulletin

07 February 2025

Strikes

The upcoming strike days are on Tuesday to Thursday this week. Monday and Friday are normal days for all pupils. Of course, the hope is for a resolution before this occurs.

I spoke to a senior regional member at NEU on day 2 of the strikes who now agrees that for the school-level issues, the NEU need to meet me, the principal, to resolve the matters arising, and NEU can liaise with NST about a Trade Union Recognition Agreement (TURA).

The NASUWT agreed in my meeting with them, in previous weeks, that all these issues are "routine school-level, bread and butter" matters which we can easily resolve – in fact, all items on the member's list were clarified and resolved within the meeting, except the TURA.

To be clear, this has been the stance we have taken from the very beginning where we have asked for multiple meetings to resolve arising matters, as is the protocol in all schools. In fact, each half-term, I had been meeting my school-level representatives to raise and resolve issues such as workload where we agreed positive steps moving forward.

Therefore, we remain happy to meet and hope as a result any further action will be suspended, but ball is in their court of the NEU & NASUWT.

My absolute focus is my staff and my pupils. Nothing is insurmountable in my experience when we put pupils first. I am sure we will overcome this challenging time sooner rather than later.

Logistics on strike days

Year 11, 12 and 13 are due in school as normal on these days. For all year groups, the agreed work and timetables have been shared, and will be shared again next week. Mock exams continue for both GCSE and A Level/BTEC pupils so their attendance is imperative. This is their last chance for these before their summer GCSE/A Level/ BTEC exams. The feedback and intervention plan from these exams will be the difference between 2 -3 grades for many pupils.

Attendance

We seeing some worrying patterns with some pupils which will be explored with the LA EWO service to support getting our pupils back to school as soon as possible.

If there are any barriers to not being able to attend, please email ht@gateacre.org.

Year	% Attendance	Late before reg	Late after reg	Count PA
7	91.12%	230	0	20
8	90.36%	418	3	50
9	91.23%	524	0	64
10	83.39%	494	1	75
11	84.46%	550	14	73
12	87.50%	54	0	2
13	88.07%	48	0	5

Teaching & Learning

I Do, We Do, You Do: Modelling to pupils, slowly removing scaffolds

In Mathematics, 'I Do', 'We Do' and 'You Do' is used consistently across slides and resources.

We do: In this phase, the teacher and the students work together to complete the same task or solve the same problem. The teacher provides support and guidance as needed, but the students actively participate in the task.

WORD OF THE WEEK

This week's word of the week is:

Empathy

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Be kind, for everyone you meet may be facing a harder battle.
Plato

DATES TO REMEMBER

Coffee Mornings

11th February - Y10
14th February- Y11 & Sixth Form

11th February

Safer Internet Day & International Day for Women && Girls

Strikes

11th, 12th, 13th February

★ STAFF G.R.E.A.T.s ★

Peter Williams from Estates for his tireless work this week.

