

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

10 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience the school closure may have caused you today. We were really hoping to be open, even if it was with a delayed start. However, we had to take the decision to close on the grounds of health and safety. Given the amount of snow on site, it would not have been possible for the site to be cleared and safe for staff and students. In addition, many of our staff would have struggled to get to school, therefore I would not have had adequate staffing levels.

I do hope your young person gets involved in our creative challenge as well as their usual lessons on Showbie. We look forward to seeing lots of snow-based creativity!

Strike Days on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March

At the time of writing, the planned teachers' strikes for next week are still going ahead. Based on the number of colleagues who have been on strike in the past, we will not be able to open the school to all students. Therefore, school will be closed to Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. As on the previous strike days, we are open to those students who have requested a place in our priority provision.

Arrangements for Year 12 & Year 13 students

School will be open for the full day therefore students should arrive at the normal time and go straight to registration.

If the teacher is not striking then students will be taught their lessons that day. If the teacher is not available then they will be supported to study independently in the sixth form area, as a supervised study session. Students should bring work with them to ensure that they can use the time as productively to support their learning.

Arrangements for Year 11 students

We need to reduce the length of the school day, so the students will be in school from 8.25am until 1.15pm.

All Year 11 students should arrive as usual and go straight to their form room for tutor period. They will then go to lessons 1-4 as normal, if their teacher is in school. If their class teacher is on strike then the students will be engaged in supervised independent study in key allocated areas of the school. Students should arrive prepared to spend some time during the day focussed on retrieval practice and preparing for the exams. If they have a timetabled PE lesson this will go ahead as usual, so please ensure they bring their PE kits.

Students who study Food Technology will be completing their controlled assessment that day and they will need to be in school for the full day. Mrs Ellis will contact you with further details regarding what is required.

We will also be taking the opportunity for students to complete any mock exams they may have missed last week due to illness.

Key Stage 5 Updates from Ms Ullah

There are no 'quiet' times for our oldest students as they are constantly challenged to ensure they are successful in their studies whilst keeping an ambitious eye on the future and the opportunities it holds for them.

The weekly student bulletin is uploaded to our Sixth Form section of the website and it is a great resource to dip into if you are supporting your young person to embrace the multitude of work and volunteering opportunities that are available to them.

We were pleased to welcome the Employment and Skills Officer from Leeds City Council into school this week who delivered an informative session on Apprenticeships to all interested students as part of our Tutorial Programme.

As the prospective of leaving for university looms closer it is time to start thinking carefully about student finance. The two links below are designed to help parents navigate this challenging process:

1. [Guidance from the Dfe](#)

2. [Youtube clip](#)

Year 12 Students are also busy researching the opportunities open to them and they spent their form tutor session registering on the UCAS HUB and searching for university and apprenticeship courses in preparation for their Post 18 applications.

Please remind your young person that the deadline to return the Health and Safety Forms for Work Experience (10-14 July) is on Friday 31 March. Work experience is an invaluable experience for our students and part of our compulsory Year 12 curriculum. We would like to thank you for your support and encourage you to get in touch with the team if you have any questions or require guidance in supporting your young person to secure a work experience placement. A 1:1 appointment for students is available with the Sixth Form Team and careers advisors if required.

Positive Choices

This week we welcomed into school the Leeds United Foundation, a charity that works alongside the football club, to deliver a day of workshops to Year 8 students in Bands A and B. The workshops focused on supporting students to make positive choices by looking at the consequences of past incidents on victims and their families. The sessions explored exploitation, the realities of prison, grooming and knife crime. Students responded very well finding it not only interesting but saying that it opened their eyes to what is going on in the world. On Wednesday 22 March the foundation will return to work with the rest of Year 8 and some Year 9 students.

Key dates for your diary the week commencing Monday 13 March

Tuesday

'Fix Our Food' – 6 students to the University of York

Year 9 – Virtual Tour of Auschwitz and Birkenau

Wednesday

Strike Day – school closed to Year 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Thursday

GCSE Food practical

Strike Day – school closed to Year 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding over the past few weeks of disruption. I hope you have a nice weekend and we look forward to seeing all our students back in school on Monday.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Bell', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Bell
Headteacher