

Our ref: RF/Is

28th November 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to confirm that the Basildon Academies will be open on the 30th November and that all students should come to school as normal.

You will be aware that a number of unions that operate within the private sector have decided to take action on the 30th November. The majority of the Academies' teaching staff are members of those unions. The industrial action is being taken against the Government and relates to changes to teachers' pension and is not a reflection of any local disagreement.

You will appreciate that such action directly impacts on our ability to remain open and although I have reviewed the number of staff who are likely to be present on Wednesday it is impossible to achieve an accurate indication of the numbers who will be working on the day of action. It is therefore my intention to pull forward an assessment day which was scheduled to run in the week commencing the 5th December. On the day of action, students will receive a combination of lessons together with Maths and English examinations. You will be aware that teachers do not typically invigilate exams so using the day for exams will allow us to plan appropriate activities for students which take account of teacher absence but also enable us to progress the students learning. You will appreciate that as we will be using the day for exams it is essential that parents ensure that their children do in fact come to school on the day of action as the results of these exams will be used to help us re-set classes.

For the avoidance of date I confirm that Sixth Form students will have lessons where teachers are available or will revert to study periods.

I fully understand the difficulty which a school closure creates for parents and I am determined that we do everything possible to minimize the impact upon parents whilst ensuring that educational progress is made by students.

I am most grateful for the support which parents have given us this term and I look forward to working even more closely for the benefit of our students in the weeks and months to come.

Yours faithfully,



Rory Fox
Principal