

# Darwen Aldridge Community Academy



Darwen Aldridge Community Academy  
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22 November 2011

Dear Parents/ Carers

*'Realise your potential'*

We have been informed by a number of trade unions that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on 30 November 2011.

This action is not against the Academy itself but is part of national industrial action organised by these trades unions about changes to the pensions schemes of their members.

There is no requirement on unions to inform us of which members of staff will take action, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members of unions to obey a strike call.

Neither the governing body nor the Principal is legally allowed to close the Academy 'in sympathy' with the strike and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the safety of our students.

The Academy will only close to students if in the light of risk assessment student safety is compromised in remaining open. If it does remain open, it is unlikely that lessons will be normal and there may have to be sessions of supervised private study. If action is prolonged, we will endeavour to protect the education of our students.

Because we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to close to students may have to be taken at the last minute. Every effort will be made to give notice at the latest by the 29 November 2011, but in case the decision has to be made on the day itself, we are asking parents to nominate a place of safety, which may be your home, to which your child can go if we have to close.

We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN LOUGHRAN  
Principal