Whickham School and Sports College

SPORTS COLLEGES

Headteacher Mr. N. Morrison, M.A., M.Ed.

Ref/NM/bb

8 July 2008

Dear Parent / Carer

School Opening Times - 16, 17, 18 July 2008

UNISON Strike

As many of you will be aware, members of UNISON will be taking industrial action on **Wednesday 16th July and Thursday 17th July.** This will involve a significant number of support staff at Whickham School, including caretakers, cleaners, administration staff and learning support assistants. In the interests of maintaining health and safety and the security of the site, the school will only be open for the morning sessions on the 16th and 17th July. **School will be open as normal in the morning but closed at 12.25pm.** Students wishing to remain for school lunch can do so but all students and staff will need to be off site by 1.30pm so that the site can be secured.

New Temporary Accommodation

Temporary classrooms have arrived in school to replace the accommodation lost during the Easter fire. They are due to be handed over on Monday 14 July 2008. It had been our intention to use Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th July to facilitate a great deal of the packing away and movement of materials and equipment into the new buildings as well as all of the other reorganisation that our revised accommodation plan involves. We had intended to bring in additional caretaking support to facilitate this, but the Unison strike means this cannot now take place. As a result, this packing and movement will need to take place on Friday 18 July 2008 if the school is to be ready for a crisp start in September after the holiday period. **Therefore, the school will be closed to students on Friday 18 July 2008.** Staff will be in school as normal.

I realise that these arrangements may well cause inconvenience to you and your family, but we have tried to keep this to a minimum.

Should the strike be called off, or any of these arrangements change you will be informed by letter and information will be posted on our website, www.whickhamschool.org

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support for the school and wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully

Neil Morrison
Headteacher

Whickham School, Burnthouse Lane, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 5AR
Telephone: 0191 496 0026 Fax: 0191 488 0968
email: whickhamschool@gateshead.gov.uk
www.whickhamschool.org

YOUTH SPORT TRUST
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND ARTSMARK GOLD
Gateshead Council Learning and Culture
STRIKE JULY 2008.doc
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
SPORT ENGLAND SPORTSMARK GOLD