

26th January 2023



SAINT BEDE'S  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are likely to already be aware, the National Education Union (NEU) have indicated that they will be taking strike action on several dates over the next two months. The dates affecting the north-west region are as follows:

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

It is important to note that the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government regarding teachers' pay, and not because of any issues related specifically to our school.

I have been notified by the NEU that a number of Saint Bede's teaching staff are members of their union, and will be called upon to take strike action on these dates. As a result, as Headteacher I have had to consider how to manage the inevitable disruption, with the safety and well-being of pupils and staff being at the heart of the decision making.

**Due to the strike action, Saint Bede's will be closed to Year 9 pupils on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February.**

Parents and carers of Year 9 pupils will therefore need to make alternative childcare arrangements for this day. Year 9 pupils will be directed to work at home in preparation for Year 9 exams the following week, revision materials for which are being provided both on Firefly and on paper.

A very small number of our most vulnerable Year 9 pupils will be invited into school. This will include pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or those children in the care of the local authority. These pupils will be supported in school to carry out the revision work that other pupils will be doing at home. I will write separately to parents/carers of pupils for whom this applies shortly.

Pupils in Year 9 eligible for free school meals can order a lunch pack for Wednesday, which will be collected in school on Tuesday. Parents/carers of pupils to whom this applies will be contacted separately with further details.

**Pupils in Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 must attend school as normal on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February.** Whilst they will follow their usual timetable as far as possible, there is likely to be disruption to the school day for some pupils as a result of the strike action. Pupils should therefore bring to school any current homework, coursework or revision work, as well as a reading book, in case there is a limited period during the school day when it will be necessary for them to work independently under staff supervision.

I recognise that the strike action and the associated disruption may be frustrating, and am grateful for your patience and understanding. I also ask that all members of the Saint Bede's community continue to treat each other with kindness and respect throughout this period, in line with our Catholic mission and ethos.

I will write to you again regarding the arrangements for the subsequent strike days with as much notice as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher