



# St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

*where everyone can succeed*



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

mail@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Parent or Carer

As you may be aware from recent media coverage, the National Union of Teachers (NUT) have balloted their members with regards to taking industrial action on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. This is in relation to their concerns over pay and conditions.

The NUT confirmed with us yesterday that the strike will go-ahead on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016. This action is part of national industrial action organised by the NUT. This national strike will affect the majority of schools in England with many schools having to close or partially close, depending on the number of teachers in their school who are in the NUT and therefore the impact on their individual school.

We have a significant number of teachers at St Mary's who are members of the NUT and who are planning to take lawful industrial action on this occasion. We have therefore had to consider very carefully our plans for next Tuesday. First and foremost, we want to ensure the health and safety of students on the day, including ensuring there is a reasonable and safe staff to student ratio. We have also had to consider the potential impact on teaching and learning and how disruption can be minimised, as well the possible impact on areas such as school trips and school meals.

Considering all of the above fully, we have decided that to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, and to ensure that meaningful teaching and learning takes place for as many students as possible, we must partially close the school. **On Tuesday, therefore, the school will be closed for our Year 7, 8 and 9 students.** A number of these students are already involved in educational visits and residentials. These trips will all go ahead as planned, however, all other students in years 7, 8 and 9 should not attend school on Tuesday. Parents will therefore need to make arrangements for their child's supervision on the day.

**The school will be open as normal for our examination year groups, Years 10, 11 and 12.** Year 10 will attend school for a full, normal school day. Normal lessons will run for Year 10, as well as the planned Year 10 mock examinations. Year 11 students will be in school to participate in sessions to support their transition to Sixth Form, as well as a small number of Year 11 students who are currently finalising work for their vocational courses. Year 12 students will also be in school for a full, normal school day unless they are already involved in educational visits or residentials.

The decision to partially close the school is never taken lightly but we believe that by putting in place the above arrangements we have minimised the impact of the national industrial action as much as possible.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Foster  
Headteacher

