



# St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

*where everyone can succeed*



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: NEU National Industrial Action on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

As mentioned in my previous correspondence, the next strike day of the NEU National Industrial Action is on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 and we wanted to inform you as early as possible about our plans for this day. We have continued to evaluate the level of impact from the planned industrial action, to decide if it is possible to keep the school open or whether full or partial closure is necessary. Our legal duty of care to all students and staff, including ensuring the health and safety of our student and staff team, is paramount in our decision-making.

The level of impact on schools, due to this industrial action, differs from school to school, according to various factors such as the number of NEU members in the school and the curriculum and timetable for the planned strike day. This strike day hits a different day in our two-week timetable from the previous strike day, therefore, the impact on lessons is different. Furthermore, as I mentioned in my previous letter, as far as possible, we are trying to vary the year groups coming into school on each strike day, to minimise the impact of the 4 planned strike days on our students.

Given all considerations, we will not be able to keep the school open for all year groups on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February but, as with the previous strike day, we will be able to open to some students:

- **A group of vulnerable students across Years 7-13 will be able attend school** (*Miss Largue, Director of Student Support, will be in touch with the parents/carers of these children to confirm this*).
- **Year 11 students will be able to attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 13 students will be able to attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 7-10 students and Year 12 students will work at home.** Students will be provided with 5 hours of high-quality subject work, including meaningful exam revision work for students in Years 10 and 12. Teachers not participating in industrial action will upload lessons onto Teams for their timetabled classes. High-quality work will also be uploaded onto the Year Group Teams Tile, if subject teachers are not in school (*Miss Rossi, Director of Learning, will be in touch with all Year 7-10 and Year 12 Parents/Carers and students in due course to outline more detail about these resources*).
- **We will also be in touch with the families of all students who receive Free School Meals (FSM) in Years 7-10 and Years 12.** We want to ensure that every child is still able to have a hot meal on this day. Therefore, we will provide students with a voucher to be able to purchase this meal. Any students who receive free school meals in Year 11 and 13, or in the group of vulnerable students attending school, will receive their lunch in school as normal.

Thank you so much for your continued understanding. We have given these plans much consideration, including giving much thought to which year groups are able to come into school. For this particular strike day, the lessons of Year 11 and Year 13 were able to be taught most effectively. This has also allowed us to prioritise the two year groups that have external examinations in the summer. We will continue to evaluate the impact of any further strike days and, as far as possible, we will continue to vary the year groups coming into school, depending on the particular circumstances of each day, to ensure that all year groups attend school on at least one of the four planned strike days. **We will be in touch regarding the remaining two planned strike days of the NEU industrial action, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, in due course.**

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Very best wishes,

Miss Patterson  
Headteacher

