



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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22nd June, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are well.

The summer term is going very well, with excellent work taking place in lessons and the summer examinations going smoothly, as well as a wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits taking place. We are also planning many end of year celebrations for our students and I will be in touch again, a little later in the term, to share our plans for the last week of term.

As you may have seen in the news, the **NEU has announced further national strike days on Wednesday 5th July 2023 and Friday 7th July 2023**. We will let you know if plans change in any way, however, as things stand, the two national strike days are going ahead.

Our legal duty of care to all students and staff, including ensuring the health and safety of all, is paramount in our decision-making about whether full or partial closure is necessary and therefore, as with the previous strike days, we will not be able to keep the school open for all year groups. As always, we have considered these plans very carefully. **We only currently have five year groups in school, as Year 11 and Year 13 students are now on study leave, as they complete their final summer examinations. Furthermore, in the week of the upcoming strikes, Year 12 are also on study leave, as they complete their mock examinations. Therefore, we will be able to bring all other years groups into school on one of the two strike days.**

We know that with some students working at home on one of these strike days, it may cause difficulties for some families and we are very grateful for your understanding and patience with this. For parents and carers information, there are no further national strike days planned before the summer break.

On Wednesday 5th July:

- **Year 7 students should attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 9 students should attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 8 and Year 10 students will work at home.** Students will be provided with high-quality subject work. Teachers not participating in industrial action will upload lessons onto Teams for their timetabled classes. Students should check their Class Teams Tile for this work. If subject teachers are not in school, work will also be uploaded onto the Year Group Teams Tile (*Miss Rossi, Director of Learning, will outline more detail about these resources in due course*).
- **A small group of vulnerable students in Years 8 and 10 will be able to attend school** (*Miss Lague, Director of Student Support, will be in touch with the parents/carers of these children to confirm this*).
- **Year 12 students will be on study leave, as planned,** returning to school following study leave on Monday 10th July.
- We will also be in touch with the families of students working at home who receive Free School Meals (FSM) to provide students with a voucher for their lunch.

On Friday 7th July:

- **Year 8 students should attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 10 students should attend school.** They will complete their normal subject lessons.
- **Year 7 and Year 9 students will work at home.** Students will be provided with high-quality subject work. Teachers not participating in industrial action will upload lessons onto Teams for their timetabled classes. Students should check their Class Teams Tile for this work. If subject teachers are not in school, work will also be uploaded onto the Year Group Teams Tile (*Miss Rossi, Director of Learning, will outline more detail about these resources in due course*).
- **A small group of vulnerable students in Years 7 and 9 will be able to attend school** (*Miss Lague, Director of Student Support, will be in touch with the parents/carers of these children to confirm this*).
- **Year 12 students will be on study leave, as planned,** returning to school following study leave on Monday 10th July.



- We will also be in touch with the families of students working at home who receive Free School Meals (FSM) to provide students with a voucher for their lunch.

The Diocesan Summer Festival and the Duke of Edinburgh Award residentials, planned for Wednesday 5th July to Friday 7th July 2023, are able to go-ahead for our students.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Very best wishes,



Miss Patterson
Headteacher

