



26 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

NEU Industrial Action: Wednesday 1 February 2023

You will recall that we wrote to you last week to keep you updated regarding the announced strikes by the National Education Union (NEU) on 4 dates.

The content of this letter pertains to the strike action on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

As we stressed last week, it is important to note that the NEU's dispute is a national issue and not in any way directed at St Nicholas Catholic High School.

The school's absolute priority in such circumstances is the health and safety of all members of our school community, with the adequate supervision of students a fundamental consideration.

Based upon the information provided by the NEU and their declared number of members in the school, coupled with the fact that members do not need to inform the school prior to the strike date if they are taking action, it has become clear through our risk assessments that we cannot ensure students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety due to adequate supervision concerns.

Therefore, we have to inform you that St Nicholas Catholic High School will be closed to students on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

We can assure parents and carers that this decision has been an absolute last resort following extensive consideration of the situation. We have modelled a range of different scenarios to explore all possibilities of different school opening types but risk assessments clearly demonstrated it was not possible to open for students.

Provision for Students on Wednesday 1 February 2023

We remain committed to offering educational provision for our students on the day of strike action and will be providing remote education for all of our students, which will be accessed via Microsoft Teams.

Students will be expected to follow their regular timetable of subjects online for the day and, wherever possible, they will have live lessons with their teacher. In the instance of a teacher being unavailable, students will be guided towards online work for that lesson.

Students will have a virtual assembly in forms on Monday 30 January outlining how to access the remote learning package and expectations regarding engagement and conduct during the



online lessons. We are blessed with the positive behaviour of our students but please do support us by reinforcing the message of appropriate online conduct to your children at home during the day.

Mr Spencer, Acting Deputy Headteacher, will also be writing to you today to provide more detail about our remote learning package for the day and support for students.

Free School Meals

Families in receipt of free school meals provision will receive electronic food vouchers to the value of the daily allowance and these will be distributed shortly.

Future Strike Dates

As you will be aware, other strike dates have been announced by the NEU. However, given the evolving situation with the national dispute, it is prudent to deal with each date in turn.

The next scheduled strike date by the NEU is Tuesday 28 February and we hope that some national resolution will progress before then. Of course, we will always keep you updated of matters.

As ever, we thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

John Heffernan
Acting Headteacher

Chris Mottram
Chair of Governors

IN OMNIBUS LABORA