



25th January 2023

Dear families,

As you know, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted to take strike action over pay. This is a national dispute with the Government. The first strike will affect St Bede's on the 1st February.

We have completed our review of our resources and completed a risk assessment of the impact of the strike action. We will not have the capacity to remain open on the 1st February for all students.

Attendance of students will be limited to Year 7 for lessons and Year 13 (and potentially Year 12) for independent study.

We will survey Year 13 and Year 12 students today and tomorrow to check we have the capacity to meet the demand.

The college opening times will remain as normal and the home-to-school transport will run as usual.

For Year 7, lessons will run as normal if the class teacher is in school. Where the class teacher is not in school, lessons will be adapted to fit staff availability. All Year 7s should bring their PE kits - they all have PE timetabled that day.

Free school meals

We will retrospectively provide vouchers to cover the cost of the missed lunch for any student that is eligible for free school meals, but is completing remote learning at home.

Remote learning

We will provide a package of work for students that are completing remote learning at home via Class Charts nearer to the day. Please encourage your children to engage with this work.

Thank you for your patience and support as we prepare our contingency plans. It is important for us to remember that only one of the teaching unions, the NEU, has voted to take strike action at this stage. Some members of staff are in that union and may choose to strike, others will be in other unions and some in no union. No assumption or judgment should be made about individual staff regarding whether they are in school or not in school on the day of the strike.

I am sorry that many of you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. St Bede's remains committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for our students and staff, and to delivering an excellent Catholic education.

We are working closely with union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

Kind regards,

Rob King

Principal

