23 June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the government have failed to reach an agreement with Union leaders regarding teacher pay, school funding, recruitment and retention. All unions including the National Education Union (NEU) have considered their response. Other teaching unions are re-balloting their members. However, because of the NEU already meeting their legal threshold for strike action, two further dates have been announced: **Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July 2023.** In my last letter, I alerted you to the fact that further strike action was possible. This national strike is not against any one school but is part of the national action for which members have voted.

Following careful analysis of the timetable on the days of strike action which fall on both Year 5 Open Evening and Year 6 induction day respectively, the likely number of teachers striking and in consultation with my senior team and governors on both days, the following has now been decided:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Year groups in school** | **Expectations for students on the day** |
| **Wednesday 5 July 2023** | Year 7, 10 and Year 12 on site until 1pm | **Students in year 7,10 and 12 are expected to attend school until 1pm when the school will then close to prepare for Open Evening. All students should bring adequate work or revision materials with them.** **They should not expect to have access to a laptop.**  Should you require your child to remain in school after 1pm to 3.30pm, please let their Head of Year know so that they can be supervised.  Where students have lessons and those staff are not on strike, lessons will take place as usual. Where there are lessons with those teachers who are on strike, students will be in supervised study.  **Students who are helping with the Open Evening will receive a separate invite letter to outline the expectations for when they should be on site if they are not in school.** |
| **Friday 7 July 2023** | Year 7 and Year 12 | **Students in year 7 and 12 are expected to attend school. All students should bring adequate work or revision materials with them.** **They should not expect to have access to a laptop.**  Where students have lessons and those staff are not on strike, lessons will take place as usual. Where there are lessons with those teachers who are on strike, students will be in supervised study. |

**Wednesday 5 July 2023, the school will be closed to students in Year 8 and 9.** Year 7, 10 and 12 students will be required to attend. The school will close as planned at 1pm to allow preparation for the Year 5 Open Evening.

**Friday 7 July 2023, the school will be closed to students in Year 8, 9 and 10.** Year 7 and 12 students will be required to attend.

Students whose teachers are not on strike will have work set for them on Teams. For students whose teachers are on strike in these year groups, activities will be emailed to students.

Our vulnerable students will also be invited to attend on both days should parents / carers feel that this would be the best provision for them on the day.

I am sorry about the disruption to you and to your child’s education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating but continue to ask that all members of our school community are treated in line with the values explicit in our mission statement. St Bernard’s remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all our students.

Please be aware that should strike action be called off, the school will open as normal.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you should arrangements need to change.

Kind regards,

A signature on a white background

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**Mrs A Moise-Dixon**

**Headteacher**