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OUR LADY & ST. BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Head Teacher: M Wilkinson
CEO: M Shorten M.Ed., BA (Hons)
Chair of Directors: Y Coates

Wednesday 25th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU teaching union has declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023 with future dates announced further down the line. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. To ensure consistency of messaging, we would appreciate your support in explaining this to your child.

As Head teacher at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, I'm getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for Wednesday 1st Feb 2023.

A number of our staff at all levels, have voluntarily declared that they will be taking industrial action on that day. Based on that information and given the fluidity of strike action impact, we have taken the difficult decision to direct year 8 and 9 pupils to work from home on that day to ensure we have the necessary ratio of staff in school to ensure the safety of pupils.

As per Covid lockdown protocol, due consideration will be given to vulnerable pupils in the year groups affected (in this instance year 8 and 9). If your child has an Education Health Care Plan, our SENCo will be in touch to discuss provision, and if your child is eligible for free school meals, they can collect a packed lunch from main reception between 9.15AM and 10.30AM on the day of the strike if they wish to do so.

Please note, that strike day in school disruption for year 7, 10 and 11 will be minimised as much as possible, but the very nature of strike action means this is a fluid situation and we ask that you support us with any necessary adaptations that might need to be made at short notice.

We are therefore directing pupils in year 8 and 9 to work from home on Wednesday 1st February and access learning resources either via their Microsoft Teams Year group platform or by clicking on the 'Curriculum' tab on our website and going to the 'Supporting Learning' pages for the relevant year group.

I'm sorry that year 8 and 9 parents and carers will have to make alternative arrangements for children at short notice, and will experience further 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. Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy and Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

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

If you have any questions, please contact the school on 01642 704970.

Yours faithfully,

Mo Wilkinson
Headteacher

