

8 March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Industrial Action

I wish to again remind parents/ carers of the industrial action planned for next week, **Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March**, both national strikes by members of the NEU.

Whilst the planned action is a result of a national dispute between the unions and the government, and not specifically our school, it is important that we respond accordingly in the interests of our pupils whilst respecting the rights of our staff.

As previously stated, it remains the intention of the Governing Body to keep school open wherever possible on the strike days and we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that this is the case. However, in doing so, school needs to ensure it is able to meet the health and safety requirements for pupils and staff who are not striking.

School will need to partially close on both Wednesday and Thursday next week, unless there are any changes to the planned action by the NEU.

On Wednesday 15 March pupils in Years 7 and 10 will be asked to study remotely.

Pupils in Year 10 should look on School Synergy following their timetable for any work and we would ask that if there is no work set they should complete independent study, looking back through their books, revisiting prior learning and completing relevant research work. Pupils in Year 7, who will have their school exams on Friday 17 March and Monday 20 March, should complete independent revision on topics of work specified by their teachers relating to their exams. They should consider making mind maps, flashcards, or using any of the revision techniques shared in their Character for Life lessons in the Michaelmas term. The powerpoint from these lessons sharing helpful revision tips is available on their Synergy student bulletin.

On Thursday 16 March pupils in Years 8 and 9 will be asked to study remotely.

Pupils should again look on School Synergy, following their timetable to find the work. At St Michael's we encourage all of our young people to become independent, resourceful learners and ask that pupils use their time to enhance their self-study skills and actively encourage them to read widely around the topics they are studying as well as read for pleasure. If there is no work set, there will be some activities available for them to complete on the student bulletin.

Arrangements will be in place for children of Critical Workers in these year groups to attend school if necessary. Please see the attached form [Critical Workers Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March](#)

Any pupils who are entitled to a free school meal should collect this from the canteen at the end of lunch on either Tuesday 14 March (Years 7 and 10) or Wednesday 15 March (Years 8

and 9). Pupils in Year 10 should collect this before leaving for the Careers Fair on the Tuesday afternoon.

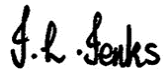
On Wednesday and Thursday, pupils in all other years **must** attend school as normal (school buses will be running). Pupils will follow their normal timetable, but all pupils, particularly Year 10 (Thursday) and Year 11 (Wednesday and Thursday) should ensure that they have work/ study/ wider reading to complete independently which doesn't require access to a computer. We would be grateful if you can discuss this with your son/daughter and ensure that they bring the appropriate materials. Pupils in all years should also ensure that they have their reading book with them.

We continue to plan for all of the strike days and am sure that you appreciate this takes some time as rules relating to industrial action mean that we are unable to accurately identify each member of staff that is likely to engage in strike action. We realise that this may cause you disruption. We wish to assure you that we will be taking all reasonable steps to minimise the impact on pupil learning. We will continue to monitor and review the arrangements in place whilst this action is ongoing.

It is possible that some staff may form a picket line outside school. Should this be the case, I know that all who are part of 'Team St Michael's', whether parents/carers, pupils or colleagues will continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect and interactions will be courteous and respectful as usual. (Please may we remind parents/carers that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line.)

The education of your child is important to all staff at St Michael's. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Yours sincerely



Jayne Jenks
Headteacher