



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

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Dear Parent/Carer

On behalf of everyone in school, we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that 2023 is happy and fulfilled for our families.

As we come to the end of our first week in school following the Christmas Holiday, I would just like to highlight a couple of issues that have been gathering momentum in the national press that you may already be aware of.

The first issue is regarding the **possible strike action taken by members of all the teachers' unions**. Leaders of the National Education Union (NEU), NASUWT teaching union and leaders' unions the NAHT and ASCL met with the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan this week in an attempt to avert strikes. It has been reported that no progress was made to resolve the issues, although further talks will hopefully take place. Ballots of NEU, NASUWT and NAHT members all close this week and strike action could take place within weeks if legal thresholds for a 'yes' vote are met. We will, of course, notify you as soon as we possibly can if this results in full or partial-closure of the school on certain days.

The second issue is in relation to the publicity afforded to **harmful social media 'influencers'**. This is a topic that has been discussed in recent 'Guidance Evenings' with our Year 7 and Year 8 parents. I am sure that this is a topic of conversation in many of our families' households this week and we would be grateful if you would reinforce with your son/daughter that inflammatory comments can significantly adversely affect the happiness of our young people in school if they are subjected to such comments. As part of our curriculum, we have comprehensive schemes of work that cover all the issues surrounding these harmful views, but it is worth pointing out that when students are not in class, ie at break and lunch times, sexist and misogynistic comments have no place in our school (or indeed society) and will not be tolerated. I am sure that I can rely on your support in reinforcing this at home.

Please remember that if you or your child are struggling with any aspect of school life, do not hesitate to get in touch with us and we will do our very best to help.

Thank you for your continued support, it is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher