



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

Rookery Avenue,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield,  
Wigan, WN4 9PF  
Telephone: 01942 728651  
Email: [office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk)  
Web: <http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk>  
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican  
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

20 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to update you on forthcoming strike actions and the school's response to this situation. The NEU has conducted a further ballot on national strike action and has confirmed that its members will take strike action on **Thursday 27 April 2023** and **Tuesday 2 May 2023**.

As you know from my previous letters regarding strike action by the NEU, (the last letter being sent on the 10 March 2023) regarding the strike action taken on the 15 and 16 March 2023, the school has been able to remain fully open for all year groups. **However, it will not be possible for us to remain fully open for the next series of strikes.**

### **Reason for Industrial Action**

It is really important to point out that this is not industrial action against the school, it is because the unions are in a trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education as "a result of the failure to give an undertaking to make available additional and sufficient funds to allow employers to pay a fully funded increase in the pay of teachers at a rate greater than inflation."

### **Assessing the viability of remaining open on Strike Days**

As I have pointed out in my previous letters, the Department for Education have asked me to do everything that I can to ensure the continuity of educational provision in our school by keeping the school open on these strike days, if we can provide adequate health and safety for all staff and pupils. I can confirm that our risk assessment has now concluded that the school will be **unable** to **fully open** on these **two strike days**. There is now a much greater level of uncertainty over how many staff we will have available on these days.

### **Pupils in Years 8 and 9 will be taught **REMOTELY****

For Y8 and Y9 pupils, on **both** of these days, lessons will be conducted online. Specific details relating to this are attached to this letter. **There will be provision for pupils in Y8 and Y9 who access Free School Meals and/or have an EHC to attend school on the strike days.** Please click the link to advise us that your child **WILL** be in school so that lunch can be arranged for them: [Strike Days - Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2023 \(office.com\)](#)

### **Pupils in Years 7, 10 and 11 will be taught **IN SCHOOL****

Pupils in Y7, Y10 and Y11 **should come to school as normal** on these days. Some classes will not have their usual classroom teacher or be taught in their usual classroom. Pupils may not be taught lessons according to the scheme of work, but work will be provided for every class. This may involve revising for the upcoming assessment window which takes place between 15 – 26 May 2023 or for GCSE exams. For Y7 pupils, it would also be very helpful if your child had an appropriate reading book in their bag on these days.

I would just like to thank you for your continued support, it is always greatly appreciated. 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.

Yours faithfully

**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher

## **Expectations of Remote Learning for Y8 and Y9**

- Where this offer is available, class teachers will notify classes of the lesson in advance. This notification will be evident in pupils' calendar in Teams.
- Students should log onto Teams for their lesson at the same time as it would appear on their current timetable.
- Registers will be taken so it is essential that pupils attend the lesson.
- For some lessons, remote teaching may not be available/appropriate. This may be for a number of reasons. Therefore, if a teacher has not appeared online after 5 minutes of lesson start time/a lesson has not been calendared, pupils can assume the lesson will not take place and their attendance record will not be affected.
- Live lessons will be delivered by the pupil's class teacher.

### **Where a Teams lesson is not calendared**

- Where teachers are not available to offer remote learning, students are still expected to engage in learning. Staff may have already arranged work for pupils to complete but if not, they should use the time to prepare for their End of Year Assessments.
- All pupils have received revision lists detailing the content of assessments in May. Pupils should use all relevant resources provided by school (class books/knowledge organisers/revision booklets) to prepare for the assessments during the timetabled lesson.

### **How do pupils access Teams?**

- All pupils have received training on Microsoft Teams.
- Pupils can access Teams via any mobile device/desktop. Please ensure pupils have downloaded the Teams app onto their mobile device/desktop.
- Guidance on how to use Teams is available on the school website. Please follow this link
  - [Technical Support | St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School](#)

### **Pupil behaviour expectations**

- A high standard of behaviour is expected from pupils when engaging in live lessons. Pupils may communicate with peers and staff but this communication will be guided by the class teacher.
- Like a normal lesson in school, pupils are expected to complete tasks and submit work where necessary.

ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
REMOTE CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

**A**ttendance at live lessons is compulsory.

**R**emember – the same high standard of behaviour is expected in live lessons as it is in a normal school lesson.

**R**ecording, storing or distribution of audio material from the live lesson is not allowed.

**O**nly use appropriate language in the lesson. Silly comments are not necessary.

**W**aving or communicating in an attempt to disrupt the lesson will not be tolerated.

**S**table wifi connection is necessary. If the connection does become unstable, please do not panic. Email your teacher and let them know.

**M**ake sure you use the “hands up” facility to ask a question. Do not shout out.

**I**f you have not been able to access the live lesson, please attempt the resources that the teacher provided.

**T**eaching staff may insist on pupils turning their cameras on. Please do so if required.

**H**ome learning resources will be stored on Teams. Make sure you download them for the lesson.