

# ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*incorporating*

## WEST CUMBRIA CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM CENTRE

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
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Head Teacher:  
EMMA JACKSON

20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, teachers in the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take further strike action on several days this term. The proposed strike dates are Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

Approximately 75% of our teaching staff are members of the NEU, and as such, are expected to take part in the strike action. As you will understand, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our main priority, and we have had to consider the potential impact on our ability to safely supervise and care for our students without the presence of a significant proportion of the school staff. With this in mind, we have carried out a risk assessment and made the following decisions:

1. We are unable to operate the school as normal on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.
2. School will be **open** for students in Years 12 and 13 **ONLY**.
3. School will be **closed** for students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. **However, please note, Year 11 GCSE Art and Year 11 GCSE French speaking examinations will go ahead as planned in school on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May.**
4. Year 10 internal exams due to take place on the strike days will be rescheduled.
5. **Year 11 and 13 Students ONLY. Teachers who are involved in industrial action have agreed to set work for all Year 11 and 13 students. It is expected that these students will be working on specific tasks that have been set by teachers. In the days leading up to the strike, teachers will tell students how and where to access this work. It will vary from subject to subject. However, as an example, students may expect work on Teams, past papers and revision activities. Please try to ensure that your child engages with these activities as they have been specifically chosen to support students with the upcoming exams.**

### Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

Teachers who are not taking strike action will deliver remote lessons on Teams for each of the classes they normally teach in line with the normal school timetable. Students should check Teams at the start of each period to check if their lesson is live and to access the lesson.

If a student would have been taught by a teacher who is taking strike action, they will not receive work for the lesson that day. For those lessons there are some resources that they can access from home to have a productive day. These include:

1. Homework available on Teams or via Edulink.
2. Use their exercise books and other resources to review and recap.
3. Access online packages such as Dr Frost Maths or Kerboodle.
4. Engage with online lessons from Oak Academy, linked to aspects of their learning: [Oak National Academy Online Classroom \(thenational.academy\)](https://www.oaknationalacademy.com)
5. Use BBC Bitesize: [Secondary Homework Help | Online subjects - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize)

Information about our school curriculum is available via our website.



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**Students in Years 12 and 13**

Students in the Sixth Form should attend school as normal. Teachers who are not taking strike action will teach their normal lessons, in their normal classrooms. Where students have a lesson and the teacher is not in, students will be able to use the classroom, sixth form study area or school library to study and revise independently.

Please note there will be no live lessons on Teams for sixth form students.

**Arrangements for students attending school**

School transport providers will be informed of the above arrangements and therefore school transport should run as normal for both sixth form students (Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May) and Year 11 students sitting their GCSE Art and GCSE French speaking examinations (Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May only).

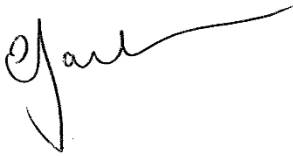
Sixth form students should sign in using the sign in screen in Reception between 8.40am and 8.55am and attend period one as normal. Lunches will be available, for both sixth form students (Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May) and Year 11 students sitting their GCSE Art and GCSE French speaking examinations (Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May only) but this will be a slightly reduced service.

**Free school meals**

For students in receipt of free school meals in Years 7 to 11, a voucher will be issued for Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the same way as school holiday vouchers.

I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding at this time. I do understand that this can be inconvenient. The decisions have been taken to ensure all our students are safe and that we can provide some education during the strike days.

Yours faithfully



Emma Jackson  
Head Teacher