

To all Parents/Carers

22nd June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Planned Strike Action – Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July 2023

The National Education Union (NEU) intends to call upon its teacher members to take part in industrial action consisting of strike action on:

- Wednesday 5th July
- Friday 7th July

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the NEU and the Government over teacher pay and funding to allow schools to pay a fully funded increase in teachers' pay, and not because of any issues in our school.

I am writing to you today to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for both days. Unfortunately, due to the number of teachers in the NEU, attendance for pupils and students will be restricted to pupils and students in Years 12, and the school will temporarily prioritise places for a limited number of vulnerable pupils and students (who will be sent an additional invitation letter).

The Refectory will be open for pupils and students in school. If your child receives a free school meal and they are not in school, you will be issued with a £3 voucher per strike day via Wonde. This voucher can be used in any supermarket at any time.

Years 12

Students in Year 12 should come to school as normal. They will attend lessons that are taking place and should bring resources with them for private study/revision, along with their folders and books for lessons. Students will be able to work in the Sixth Form study area, Sixth Form academic mentoring room and Library when not in lessons. Alternatively, students will be able to leave the school site when they do not have a lesson.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Pupils in Years 7-10 are to remain at home and are expected to access lessons via Microsoft Teams if their teacher is available to teach. Teachers will send a message via SMHW at the beginning of the day to inform pupils that the lesson is taking place online. Where a teacher is striking, the lesson will not take place. Our remote learning policy (including expectations for remote learning and attendance to remote lessons) has been shared with pupils and parents previously.

Pupils in Year 10 are advised to review and revise their learning if their teacher is not available to teach. They should use subject specific resources and websites, previously shared by their teachers or resources on the school website: <https://www.saintcecilias.london/revision-resources-202223>.

The school day will begin at 8.50am and end at 2.50pm for all pupils and students. Break and lunch will take place at the usual times. Extra-curricular activities will not take place on strike days.

Pupils and students involved in the school production, Fame, would normally be taking part in final dress rehearsals and a matinee performance. This is going ahead and therefore pupils involved in Fame are expected to attend school on Wednesday 5th July. These pupils should arrive at school at 8.50am.

Impact and changes to the school calendar

Should the strikes go ahead, please note the following:

- The school production of Fame will go ahead as planned on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July.
- To enable staff to undertake planned training, the INSET day on the Friday 7th July will now take place on Friday 14th July. On Friday 7th July, Year 12 students should come to school as normal to attend lessons if their teacher is available. Pupils in Years 7-10 are to remain at home and access lessons via Microsoft Teams if their teacher is available to teach.
- Friday 14th July is now a staff training day and pupils are not expected to attend school.

I am sorry you may have to make alternative arrangements to supervise your child, and for any inconvenience caused by changing the date of the staff training day. I understand this situation may be frustrating and want to assure parents of my commitment to ensure staff can access development and training (which will benefit all pupils and students in the Autumn Term and beyond) and minimise disruption to learning and lost days to teaching.

I am working closely with our staff union representatives to stay abreast of the situation, and I will inform you if arrangements change.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher