



21-04-23

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Planned strike action Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

We have had confirmation from the NEU that members of this union intend to take further formal industrial action by participating in two days of strike action on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teachers' pay and funding for schools. It is not a dispute with the College.

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of April**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of April, it would appear that more of our staff are choosing to strike than previously. Regrettably, this means we are only able to accommodate those pupils who have been identified as 'vulnerable' from all year groups. Therefore, we will not have provision for the majority of pupils in Years 7 to Year 11 on this day. Parents and carers of those pupils identified as vulnerable will be contacted by Heads of Year or a member of the pastoral team.

In line with accepted protocol, we will not require non striking staff to cover for those teachers participating in the strike action. Therefore, **all pupils in Years 7 to 11 will access Remote Learning via SatchelOne from home. (with the exception of those invited in)**

In addition, on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, some staff might form a picket line outside the College. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If this is the case, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we support our staff's legal right to strike. We ask that any interactions you may have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day. We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school to join a picket line. This includes parents or carers and pupils.

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

At this stage, we believe it will be possible to open the College to more pupils on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We will prioritise examination groups and intend to offer lessons to all Year 11 pupils, as well as those identified as 'vulnerable' (who will be invited in) to partake in supervised activity.

On this day, **attendance for all Year 11 pupils is expected**, and they should arrive at the normal time. For those who have PE on this day (on their normal timetable) must bring their PE kit. Buses will operate as normal and arrangements for school lunches will not change.

We appreciate that any closure / partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. The decision to limit our pupils' education is never taken lightly, but in this instance, where colleagues have elected to take lawful industrial action, we have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety of all children. Castle Donington College remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality education. If anything changes before either strike day, we will be in touch. Likewise, if you have concerns, please contact us. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

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Principal

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