

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our ref: MQ/SM

23 June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure you are aware the National Education Union (NEU) has called for another two days of industrial action on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July. Like you I had hoped that the dispute between the teaching unions and the Government would have concluded by now.

It is pretty much universally accepted that the teaching profession, along with other public sector professions, have suffered more than a decade of below-inflation pay increases. There is also a clear line of sight between pay and recruitment and retention. Nationally the number of teachers leaving the profession is at its highest. Last week I was with Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, who also reported we have the youngest teaching profession of all OECD members. No child benefits from the underfunding of education. Equally, no child benefits from periods of industrial action.

I must stress once more that the strike does not reflect the relationship between staff and the Local Governing Body at Oaklands or the Edith Stein Trustees, which are both positive and productive. We have highly dedicated staff, but many of them feel strongly about this issue and the impact funding is having on pay and the profession.

At this juncture I cannot inform you of the exact impact of strike action. Striking staff do not have to notify their employer until the day of the action, therefore the position for the first strike day remains uncertain. Teachers who are not on strike cannot be asked to cover for their colleague's lessons or carry out other absent colleague's duties.

However, I can confirm that the following school events will continue over the period of industrial action:

1. Year 10 Work Experience Week from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th July.
2. Year 12 Exams from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th July.
3. Year 8 Languages Day on Wednesday 5th July.
4. Year 6 into Year 7 Induction Day at Oaklands on Friday 7th July.

The decision around the provision we can provide for other students on a strike day will be taken following an effective risk assessment considering the safety of staff and students.

Once the position becomes clearer, I will write to you again; please note though that this may be at very short notice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher