

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

25 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: National Education Union (NEU) Strikes**

I wrote to you last week to inform you that we were very likely to have to close the school to all students during the strike days. I apologise that I have not been able to get back to you before now with a final decision but there has been much to arrange and many conversations to have. I am now able to confirm that we will be closed to all students on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. It is likely we will also be closed on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. You do not need to call in as all students will be marked absent. This will not however count against their overall attendance as the school is closed.

Any students who are entitled to free school meals will be allowed to collect their lunch at 3.10pm, from the main canteen, on the day before the strike, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

The NEU is calling on 77 of our teachers to strike on these four days and we simply cannot open the school safely with this level of staff absence. We are not able to compel staff to cover the duties of a teacher who has chosen to strike and therefore we will also not be able to deliver online lessons or cover the curriculum. At The City of Leicester College however, we believe that all students should be ambitious for their character and their outcomes. While this strike action is absolutely not ideal for their education in the short term, it is an excellent chance for them to prove their independence and resilience.

Later this week we will be in touch again with a list of resources that students can direct themselves to on the strike day to support their learning. I know this will not replace the quality of education your child gets while at school but by actively participating in their own learning journey the damage can be significantly limited. To make independent learning on this day even more impactful I would recommend talking to your child this week and ensuring that they are clear what topics they are learning, at the moment, in each subject so they can cover similar topics on the strike days. For students in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 they will have recently had assessments or mocks and these strike days are a great chance for students to revise the key knowledge they need to improve their grades next time.

We will be offering a quiet study space for Year 11 and 13 if there is nowhere suitable for them to study at home. Any student wishing to take this offer up needs to email Mr Dakin (Year 13) or Mrs Powell (Year 11) by 8am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January so we can ensure adequate staffing and rooming. We will also be sending out another letter closer to the time so you know what resources you can direct your child to.

I know that following several years of interrupted schooling, the strike days will cause yet more disruption. It is a real shame that negotiations between unions and governments have not been more productive because this is a situation that nobody wants. Every member of staff I have spoken to here at The City of Leicester College is torn between wanting what is best for the students here and now, and wanting what is best for education in the long term. Whatever choice

our teachers have made personally, it has been a very difficult one for them and it has been very difficult for me to have to close the school because of it.

I can assure you though that I am still completely committed to delivering the best education that we possibly can for our community. We continue to do amazing things together and I have no doubt this is just another challenge we will be able to overcome.

Kind regards,

**Mr. K Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**