

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Industrial action by the NEU**

This week we have been officially informed by the National Education Union (NEU) that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on the following date:

- Wednesday 1st February 2023

With further strikes planned for:

- Tuesday 28th February 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

As I am sure you are aware, this action is not against the school but is part of national industrial action organised by the NEU regarding pay. Ballots by two other teaching unions (NASUWT, NAHT) did not meet the 50% response threshold.

I wanted to give you advanced warning of the strike on Wednesday 1st February 2023 as there is the potential to cause disruption to our school and to schools across our Trust.

Please be informed that planning for strike action is complicated by the fact that:

- there is no requirement for a union to inform us which or how many members of staff will take strike action and
- union members are under no obligation to inform employers of their union membership, or to inform employers in advance of their intention to strike.

We are considering a number of options to deal with reduced staff numbers, hoping to keep the school safely open for as many children as possible. This will depend on how many staff are planning to strike, as the other teaching unions may decide to re-ballot. We are working closely with our staff union representatives, local authority and the Trust team to make arrangements. Please bear with us, we will inform you of our arrangements as soon as possible.

We care very deeply about our fantastic and hardworking staff, who are the people behind every success at our schools. Like them, we are committed to providing a safe environment and fantastic education for all of our students. We understand that the situation is very frustrating. We will continue to do all we can to minimise this disruption for as many children and young people as possible.

I will update parents/carers as soon as possible to the extent that we will be affected by the planned strike.

Kindest regards,

Mrs. Woodmansey  
Head of School – St Charles' VC Academy

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