



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Northern Lights Learning Trust



Tunstall Bank, Sunderland, SR2 0SX

Telephone: 0191 523 9745

Email: venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk

Website: www.venerablebede.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

CEO: Jo Heaton OBE

Dear Parent / Carer Re: **NEU Strike Action on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023**

As you are aware, the NEU (National Education Union) gave notice of strike action which **will affect a further two days as outlined above**. There are a number of things that we must take into account before making a decision regarding whether or not we can open the school to pupils on those days, particularly questions around Health and Safety and whether we will have enough staff to be able to manage the school day safely.

Due to staffing numbers, we are **NOT ABLE TO OPEN TO PUPILS** on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 with the exception of "**Pupils in Year 11**" and "**Vulnerable Pupils**".

Vulnerable pupils will fall into one of the following groups:

- A pupil Looked After by the Local Authority
- A pupil who is on the Safeguarding register
- A pupil who has an EHCP
- A pupil with identified high level SEND needs

A space for these pupils to work in school will be made available if it is required. These pupils will not attend lessons in their usual classrooms, but will follow their usual timetable via TEAMS lessons in a computer room. Pupils attending school will be expected to wear full school uniform.

We are aiming for **Year 11 pupils to be able to follow their usual timetable** in school and be taught by their class teachers. For those classes where this might not be possible, pupils will have appropriate exam preparation work provided to them, which might include study skills work appropriate to all.

As we are aiming to have a full year group in school, **we will be able to open our school canteen** and serve hot food.

A reminder that for those pupils who qualify for free school meals, the daily allowance will be paid in a single payment for the strike days to parents / carers. This payment will be made via a voucher for a local supermarket. We are unable to send this payment direct to bank accounts any more.

As we are unable to issue a voucher for the daily amount of £2.40, the full amount will be issued after all strike days have taken place.



Northern Lights Learning Trust is a company registered in England & Wales (07909140) with its registered office at Benedict Biscop Church of England Academy, Marcross Drive, Moorside, Sunderland, SR3 2RE.

Arrangements for Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March

The school will be closed to pupils **except Year 11 and “Vulnerable Pupils”** on these days. We will be open every other day that week to all pupils as usual. Pupils who have been identified as vulnerable, and who have been invited to work in school will start school at the usual time of 8.30 a.m. When these pupils arrive at school, they should report to the Main School Office to be signed in and registered. They will then be taken to the room in which they will work that day.

Year 11 pupils should attend school at their normal starting time, and **be in the Year 11 Yard** no later than 8.30 a.m. where they will be met by tutors and taken to their tutor base. As far as practicable we are aiming for Y11 to have a “normal” school day.

As far as possible, all other pupils will be able to log on to TEAMS, from home, using their school Email account and take part in “TEAMS lessons” with staff who are teaching in school. Pupils have had training on how to do this, but here is a [LINK](#) to the resources page of the school website, where you will find all key information needed to access TEAMS lessons, FOLDR and how to learn remotely. TEAMS lessons are scheduled to begin at 9.15 a.m. which will coincide with the start of Period 1. During the day, lessons will begin and end at their usual scheduled time ([CLICK LINK](#) to School Day).

What we do not know, is how many teachers will be in school and available to deliver TEAMS lessons. The rules of the strike action are such that **teaching staff are not obliged to tell school, in advance, whether they will be at work on these days**. Other teachers might also be absent due to illness that day, or might need to be absent from work to look after younger children whose school may also be closed. This means pupils will need to log on to Teams to see if their teacher is available.

A reminder that following feedback from parents from previous strike days, we will once again share our “**Curriculum Enrichment activities**” with pupils. These can be completed by pupils **AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO** Teams lessons. Pupils can hand in any work that they complete this way to their form tutor. These activities will be placed into a folder within the student resources area of FOLDR, as well as **emailed via the ParentMail** platform.

We are hopeful that the vast majority of lessons for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are able to be delivered on TEAMS. In this way, we hope that all pupils will be able to engage in meaningful learning throughout the day.

If a pupil is not able to access online learning due to a lack of a device to access the internet, please make contact with us via the following [LINK](#). We will do our very best to help. We appreciate that you may have some further questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us using the following email (venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk) or via the following [LINK](#). We will try to respond to any queries as quickly as we can.

Once again, thank you for your understanding. We appreciate that this situation is not ideal for anyone. However, we are doing our best to support everyone in our school community.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr D Airey
Headteacher



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