



St Augustine's Catholic College

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Headteacher Mr Aidan Dowle, MA, NPQH

Our ref: AFD/NJC

10th March 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

I wanted to write to you as early as possible to outline our plans for the two days of proposed industrial action next week Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of March. We have risk-assessed the situation again and are confident that we can offer the following provision:

1. Yr 13 students to be in College on both days during normal College hours. Where possible timetabled lessons will continue and the expectation will be for independent exam revision during other times. School transport will be running as normal departing 3.40pm on the Thursday however, **it will be leaving early at 1.50pm on Wednesday – if this causes a problem for any Yr13 student they should speak to Mrs Rowlett-Weston.**
2. Yr 11 Students will be in for the **morning only** on Wednesday 15th March. This will be to arrive at the normal time and register in the Hall as before. We will aim to provide as many timetabled lessons as we can where subject teachers are in and supervised independent revision during any other times. College will close for Yr11 students at 1:40. The college buses have been rescheduled to collect students at 1:50pm. Yr11 will NOT be in on Thursday 16th March.
3. The canteen will be operating as normal on both days.
4. Students in both year groups are expected to bring with them revision materials for their own independent study and be in full College uniform.

It is with regret that we are unable to safely supervise students from other year groups at this time. I appreciate that this is an accumulation of time and have been very grateful for the patience and support we have received throughout these times.

I would also like to clarify that the scheduled early closure on Tuesday 14th has been on Calendar for this academic year and is for essential planning work within departments as we move the college forwards. You will appreciate that on days with industrial action, it is not possible to undertake such work as there are many colleagues who would not be involved.

As before, we would ask all other students to try and follow the subject timetable for the days in question as much as possible. Formal work will not be set by teachers on these days but this is an opportunity for independent work. Using the links below, together with any work already set inside exercise books, there should be a variety of options to explore. It does help a learner to decide before they begin what they want to achieve/find out or complete and to work to time limits that are set. (Between 40-50mins) which is in line with our normal lessons. Breaks are also important when completing independent study.

The following links should be helpful for you:

1. Unifrog: <https://www.unifrog.org/> Every child now has access to this incredibly useful tool to explore career options and plan the necessary pathways. It also helps young people to build their own personal statement ready for applying to university/apprenticeships or work.
2. Maths online platform MyMaths: <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/> Login details can be found on ClassCharts.
3. BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> Follow the link to the Key Stage and subject. Work through the sections making notes and completing the tasks.
4. Year 11 and Year 13: REVISION. Plan the day into segments and decide before you start, which topic areas you will focus on. The advice is to revise and test yourself and to work in units of between 40-50 minutes. Make sure you have revision cards at the end to use over the coming months.
5. Consolidating learning: Use this time to organise your workbooks/folders. Complete the unfinished tasks and use your 'purple pen' to reflect on your learning and corrections.
6. READING: We should never underestimate the importance of reading each day. Choose your own book and spend at least one session of the day enjoying reading it.

Finally, I hope that this will be the last period of disruption for some time. I appreciate that my decision to remain open on Wednesday during the snow was not popular with many students! We were satisfied that we could open safely and the Coach company was prepared to run their service. I was also mindful that next week will be adding further disruption.

I am very grateful for the professionalism of our staff in working as a team on Wednesday and to the vast majority of students who joined with us to make the most out of this situation. My thanks also to you as parents as there are no easy solutions in these times but I can assure you that we will continue to do our best to make the most out of each situation we are faced with.

My best wishes



Aidan Dowle
Headteacher