



17 March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Strikes

It has been another odd week with the two days of strikes. However, I know the Year 10 and 11s had two great days, with some high-quality input to help them make progress and not miss too much learning time. It was very pleasing that such a high turnout occurred for these year groups, and I am sorry for those that didn't come, and missed out on extra days of learning.

At present there are no more strikes scheduled, however the NEU and the government have still not been able to sit down to negotiate, and whilst this stand-off remains, we can expect more possible days of industrial action in the summer term. Thank you for your understanding in this matter, as I am sure it presented many of you with some inconvenient childcare challenges.

### Conference

I spent last Friday and Saturday at a Headteacher's Conference in Birmingham, and it was heartening to receive the congratulations of several of my peers from local schools, as they had heard how much the school has improved. It was also inspiring to hear the likes of Baroness Sue Campbell, who oversees Women's Football for the FA, speak to us about leadership and inspiration. I used two of her quotes with my staff on Monday morning with a focus on how this can be applied to the classroom.

***"Leaders are people who have an unswerving belief in the power of the individual and the collective power of people on a common mission."***

***"Leaders invite you to be a part of achieving a compelling vision."***

I want my staff to welcome our students into their classrooms and give them a feeling of community, of excitement and common purpose as to what the lesson is all about.

### Attendance

Next week sees the first of our attendance workshops, with Andrea Green, our Education Welfare Officer, sitting down with small groups of students who may need some extra support with their attendance. I am delighted with this initiative, which rather than telling the students to do better, invites them to discuss what are the common factors and blockers towards improving attendance, and this in turn will hopefully support improvement.

Our attendance is overall much better than both county, national and regional averages, however, I really want to improve the attendance of those students who are regularly off. For

breaking these patterns is paramount in ensuring they can make better progress in school, and therefore go on to gain better qualifications and life chances.

## Recruitment

We are currently in the recruitment window for teachers as we prepare for September and our expanding student roll. It will be exciting to involve our fantastic students in the recruitment process as they give us their views on the candidates. The vacancies are on our school website, so please do pass on this information to any contacts you may have who may be looking for a fantastic job opportunity.

## Assembly

This week, Ms Hardman has delivered two excellent assemblies in support of National Careers Week. The key message of both assemblies is 'dream big'. I know that you have been written to regarding the career's platform, Unifrog, and psychometric testing, and I cannot recommend highly enough that you sit down with your child and look at some of the potential career routes, and job opportunities that can be viewed through this excellent piece of software.

A link to the original letter is [here](#).



## Raffle

Our wonderful CESA team are holding a Spring Raffle to raise money for the school. Your sons and daughters will be given their raffle tickets to sell either today or on Monday. It would be great to raise a bumper amount, and I thank you in advance for your support with this.

## Stars of the week

My **student stars** of the week are:

- **Emma T** and **Lola S** for their contribution to the Amnesty assemblies last week
- **Marilyn Q** for putting consistent and extra effort into homework tasks (and being a tour guide)
- **Keeley P** for fantastic effort in completing her NEA2 for Food
- **Carter S** for a hugely improved attitude to his studies in the last term

My **staff star** of the week is **Mr Watterson** for his support of the PE department, excellent lessons across the week and general contribution to making the school an even better place.

Please use the links below to leave us with any feedback you may have.

Have a great weekend.



Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

