



30 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Can I firstly thank all parents who have contacted us this week to recognise the recent [Ofsted report](#). We very much view this as a community success but to have that official affirmation acknowledged by parents is hugely validating for staff. I am very grateful to all who have taken the time to drop a message and get in touch.

I would also like to congratulate all students for their positive engagement in our first combined House and Sport Competition Day. The House Leaders and PE staff did a sterling job of organising the plethora of events and students engaged fully and enthusiastically for their House, showing appreciation and courtesy at almost every turn. These are the kind of days where memories are made and ethos is sustained so we hugely appreciate everyone's involvement.

Industrial Action

Unfortunately, the ongoing dispute between teacher unions and the Department for Education has not yet been resolved and as such two more days of Industrial action have been planned for next week: Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July.

We do not know in advance which staff will take Industrial Action or not and so planning for whole year groups to be in College is very difficult. We have analysed most likely eventualities based on previous experience and believe there would be too much cover and independent study to make coming into College a meaningful experience for Years 7 to 10. Therefore, **we will open on these days for all of Year 12 and will support the Year 12 Geography trip in addition to providing supervision for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable students.**

We understand that whilst industrial action is designed to cause disruption this is difficult for families. To register for on-site provision please sign up using this form: [Key Workers and Vulnerable Student provision](#).

We also appreciate that parents may prefer learning based on the core subjects. We will be directing students to materials to support their Maths, English and Science knowledge at home.

Context to Industrial Action

Whilst the media headlines will focus on the action being about teacher pay, the greater issue facing schools at the moment is overall levels of funding. Any unfunded pay awards now will push almost all schools to unmanageable positions with their budgets. Schools have been awarded some additional uplift - all of which has been taken up absorbing inflationary costs, fuel, utilities and support staff pay.

The cost of simply recruiting and retaining good staff in a national crisis is considerable. Whether any pay award that is granted of any particular size to address these factors, its affordability and the impact on young people will depend on whether or not it is funded. These are national factors and require a national effort to address them, please be assured all staff at College care very deeply about, and remain committed to, the welfare and education of our young people.



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Parents/Carers of Students in Year 7 & 8

We are seeking to identify effective practice in Home Learning/Homework that would be helpful to be shared more widely with our community, as well as common barriers families experience, so that we can work together to overcome these.

To help us with this, we would really appreciate all of Year 7 and 8 parents taking just a few minutes to complete the short survey via the link below. Your views are hugely important to us and will provide further information, enabling us to continue supporting our students as effectively as possible: [Home Learning & Homework Survey](#).

Safe Travel to and from School

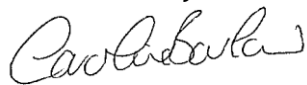
Parents will be aware we have long campaigned for greater road safety around the College and will continue to do so as vociferously as we are able. I am pleased to share a video made by a combination of student leaders, predominantly our Eco Reps and HTV, as part of this campaign questioning what it will take before their safety on the roads is taken seriously <https://youtu.be/VzsNcn48kyM>.

Can I also urge parents to remind students that if cycling to school, the requirement is that they wear a helmet. We are delighted that in this better weather more are choosing this environmentally sustainable mode of travel but the College advice and requirement is that they are equipped with and wear a protective helmet.

Please continue to view [Latest News](#) on the website for more about recent student achievements or visit our Facebook page for more frequent updates.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

Monday 3 July	6 th Form Taster Day
	Year 10 Core Mocks & Options A&B
Tuesday 4 July	Year 10 Core Mocks & Options A&B
	Year 6 Transition Event: Taster Day (2)
Wednesday 5 July	Strike Action (Year 12 in College only)
	Year 12 Geography Trip - Wilderness Wood
Thursday 6 July	Year 12 Trip to Cambridge University
	ECO Reps Community Litter Pick
	Year 10 Mock Catch Up (3.05-4.05pm)
	Year 6 Transition Event: Year 6 Welcome Evening
Friday 7 July	Strike Action (Year 12 in College only)
	Year 13 Prom
Monday 10 July	Year 10 Core Mocks & Options A&B
Tuesday 11 July	Year 10 Core Mocks & Options A&B
Thursday 13 July	Alumni Event for Year 12 Students
Friday 14 July	Year 11 Prom
Monday 17 July	Enrichment Week