



15th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on the current industrial action and to be as transparent as possible about the situation. We fully recognise that the ongoing disruption has been frustrating and has caused concern for many families. We have also received feedback that our communication has sometimes felt too late, which has understandably added to that frustration. We are sorry for this and are working to improve how and when we share information with you.

To support better communication, we have created a dedicated section on the school website for all updates related to the strike action. You can access it here: [Industrial Action Updates - St Cuthbert's RC High School](#)

This page will include the latest updates, our collective response to concerns raised, and answers to frequently asked questions, so that you have all the key information in one place.

In some instances, we have not shared potential strike dates in advance. This has been at the request of the unions, as they reserve the right to withdraw planned action at short notice. We have had to balance this with our responsibility to provide you with accurate information.

However, to be as transparent as possible, the currently notified strike dates are:

- Tuesday 19th May to Thursday 21st May - NASUWT and NEU
- Tuesday 2nd June to Thursday 4th June - NEU only

At this time, no further dates have been formally notified to the school. Should this change, we will inform you as soon as possible.

As with previous strike days, we must carry out a detailed risk assessment, taking into account staffing levels, student safety, and the needs of examination year groups. Based on this, we expect significant disruption and have made the following arrangements:

Tuesday 19th May - Thursday 21st May (NASUWT and NEU)

Years 7-10

- Students will work from home.
- Work will be provided via pupil email and should be completed as directed. We are aware that work set at home has not met the expected standard and we are working hard to review this.



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Year 11

- Students will attend school as normal.
- Lessons and scheduled examinations will continue wherever possible.
- We will maintain normal routines to ensure students feel supported during this important period.

Tuesday 2nd June - Thursday 4th June (NEU)

- The school will remain open to all pupils.

We will also continue to provide on-site support for some of our more vulnerable pupils, as we have done previously. Students eligible for free school meals will be able to collect a grab bag from the front office each morning.

For your assurance, the school has continued to engage in constructive discussions with both unions regarding their concerns. However, a key area of disagreement remains in relation to the proposed restructure. Following consultation significant changes to the restructure were made. Further to this as part of our negotiations with the unions additional changes have been proposed on a number of occasions. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to listen. We are aware that there have been calls for this to be paused. However, we believe this is an essential part of improving the school and ensuring the best outcomes for our students, so it is not something we can put on hold without impacting that progress.

We understand that this situation is increasingly difficult and inconvenient for families. Unfortunately, the employer does not have the authority to prevent strike action. Please be assured that our priority remains the safety, wellbeing, and education of all pupils.

We will continue to update you as promptly as we can if anything changes.

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of;

John McAuley, Chair of the Trust Board

Chris Foley, Trust CEO

Peter Riley, Chair Trust Intervention Committee

Emma Kennan, Executive Headteacher



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