

Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AU
Tel: (01823) 274073
Fax: (01823) 274080
Email: office@castle.somerset.sch.uk
www.castleschool.co.uk

Mr J Lamb Headteacher

5 July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Regrettably, I am writing to inform you that on Friday 7 July we will only be able to accommodate Years 7 and 10 in school.

I feel it is likely that we will not have adequate levels of staffing to enable us to have three year groups in school and be able to deliver high quality lessons and manage the school environment safely. (As previously highlighted, there is no requirement or expectation for colleagues to inform us of their intention to strike.) Therefore, in a change to the plan detailed in my letter of 26 June, on **Friday 7 July students in Years 7 and 10 will be in school, with Years 8 and 9 working from home.**

I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause. I am sure you understand the importance of us being able to put in place adequate provision for the school to operate safely.

All children with an EHCP in any year group will be invited in for the strike day. As before, all students in school will either be taught by their normal teacher in person, if they are not striking, or, if their teacher is striking, taught by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). The lessons taught by SLT will focus predominantly on core subjects (English, Maths and Science) for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) utilising knowledge organisers and Years 10 on their GCSE work.

Any year group required to stay at home will need to work online. If your child is taught by a teacher who is not striking, that teacher will be in school and will send your child an MS Teams invite to access the lesson online (guidance on how your child can access MS Teams here <u>teams-guide.pdf</u> (castleschool.co.uk), or be set work online on Class Charts. Please note the invite for these lessons may only arrive on the morning of the strike day. If your child's teacher is striking, they will not receive an invite and all work will be set online via Class Charts.

Children in receipt of Free School Meals who are not in school will receive the normal gift card emailed to parents/carers. Please contact the school if your child does not have a device to use at home and will struggle to access Class Charts or MS Teams.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this time. If you have any concerns, please do contact your child's Tutor or Head of House in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mr Lamb