



Let your light shine

21st November 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Public Sector Workers' Strike Action – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

You will be aware from national news media that the majority of the public sector workers' trade unions and professional associations are taking strike action on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November in protest against Government plans to alter pension arrangements. The number of both teaching and support staff members who will be joining in this industrial action is such that I regret that St Matthew will have to close.

This action is not against the Academy itself but is part of national industrial action organised by a number of trade unions about significant changes to the pension schemes of their members.

Under these circumstances our main concern is for the safety of our students. Although there is no requirement on unions to inform us until the actual day which individual members of staff will take action, I have already been informed of the number of those indicating that they intend to strike action on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> and I am afraid that the proportion of staff is too high for the school to remain open. We will not have enough adults to supervise all students, even by putting groups of children together. The Academy will therefore be closed to all students on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

I understand the difficulties over child care that this will present for parents and am concerned to give you as much notice as possible in order for you to make alternative care arrangements where necessary.

I sincerely hope that the pension issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Monica Cross  
Principal