



St Katherine's School



12 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

UK Youth Climate 'Strikes' – 15 March 2019

Many of you will be aware that a day of 'student 'strikes' is being proposed in a number of cities on Friday 15 March to protest against climate change.

This is a difficult issue to balance for schools. We agree wholeheartedly with the sentiment of such action and are fully supportive of students being active participators on such important issues which will have a significant impact on their lives. However, the notion of a student 'strike' on a school day is inevitably problematic for schools.

We hold a strong position on the attendance of students at school to ensure the continuity of education and to sanction a day's absence from school would be contradictory to that position. We also have a duty of care to safeguard all students in our care and there are no guarantees as to the level of supervision, by the police or other authorities at the event.

We always look for ways to connect with our young people and we were delighted to welcome Junieth Maribel Leiva, a coffee grower from Nicaragua, at the beginning of Term 4. She discussed with students how the temperature changes have exposed her crop to coffee 'rust', reducing the yield from her crop and therefore her income as a direct result of the changing climate. The topic of climate change is embedded within our geography, science and PSHE curriculum.

Our Eco Group at school was established last year and continues to grow its membership. The group has rightly identified areas within our school which need to be tackled and they are currently working through their project plans. Plans include reducing our use of plastic, actively encouraging nature within our site and the use of solar technology. Reducing the use of plastic is their current project and there is a 'plastic exchange' cake sale this week to draw attention to the impact of our use of plastic both in society and in school. If your child/children would like to make a difference and join the group they are more than welcome to join us in the canteen on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Thank you for your support in advance.

Your sincerely

Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

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