

14th February 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will no doubt be aware, a student 'strike day' is being proposed on Friday 15th February, in order to allow students to attend rallies in Oxford to protest against climate change. The action has been aimed at school students, as organisers feel that the lives of the current generation of young people will be most adversely affected by any future changes to our climate. The strike has been endorsed by Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran. As the rallies will be held in central Oxford, it is most likely that it will be City schools which will be mostly affected.

While there are clearly some very important social and educational issues at stake here, the notion of a student strike inevitably poses some difficult challenges for all schools, as we have a duty of care to safeguard all students in our care each and every day. While we do not wish to countenance any disruption to our school routines on Friday, we are also aware that a number of sixth form students would like to exercise their democratic right to join the rallies in Oxford and to support the campaign.

Consequently, I have taken the decision that **members of the sixth form only** will be allowed to attend the rallies in Oxford on Friday, **but only with the express permission of their parents or guardians**. If you feel strongly about this issue yourself, and you would like to give permission for your son or daughter to attend the rallies in Oxford on Friday, please email school to give your consent in writing. Any student who is absent without the permission of a parent will be dealt with as part of our usual processes for managing absenteeism.

May I reiterate that this concession will only be offered to students in Years 12 and 13. All other students will be expected to be in school for the whole day for business as usual. For your reassurance, please be aware that issues relating to climate change will continue to be explored by ALL students through the curriculum plans for Geography, Science and PSHE.

I do hope that you feel that this is a reasonable and sensible response to a somewhat unprecedented situation, and that you are able to support the stance we have taken as a school.

Regards



Mr R Holroyd
Headteacher
King Alfred's Academy