

23 November 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been informed by some teaching and non-teaching unions that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on 30th November 2011. This action is not against the school itself but is part of national industrial action organised by these trades unions about changes to the pensions' schemes of their members.

There is no requirement for unions to inform us of which members of staff will take action, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members of unions to obey a strike call. Neither the Board of Governors nor the Senior Leadership are legally allowed to close the school 'in sympathy' with the strike and we will not do so.

Our main concern is the safety of our students. **The current plan is for the school to remain open and run as normally as possible.** The school will only close if in the opinion of the Senior Leadership it is not safe to remain open. If action is prolonged, we will endeavour to protect the education of those on examination courses.

Because we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to close may have to be taken at the last minute. If we do have to close every effort will be made to give notice at the latest by the day before.

In addition we have contacted Translink to enquire if the buses will be running on the 30th November. At the moment there will be **NO** buses running.

We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Brown
(Vice-Principal)

Mr M Houston
(Vice-Principal)

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