



Ref/TDO/pr/parent letters

11<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing to inform you that we have been notified of potential strike action at our Academy by the NASUWT. This action is not against our school individually, but is part of action about government changes to pay, pensions and conditions.

NASUWT is proposing to take strike action on the following days:

17 May 2017

7 and 8 June 2017

13, 14 and 15 June 2017

We are aware that class or school closures are inconvenient, so I write to give you advance notice of the likely impact. There is no requirement on 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.

Our main concern is, as always, the safety, health and wellbeing of our students. Year 11 to 13 students will also be within the busiest period of exams.

In the event that the strike takes place on 17 May, the school will be partially open to Years 11 to 13 only. Year 11 to 13 students will be expected to attend school as normal for their full day, in school uniform. Some students will have exams on 17 May and these will run as normal. Break and lunch arrangements will also remain the same, as will the start and end time of the school day.

We will confirm the arrangements as soon as possible for the other proposed days of strike. If the action goes ahead, parents and carers will be notified by email, the letter will be posted 1<sup>st</sup> class to those parents/carers not registered to receive notifications by email. We will also keep you updated via the school website <http://arkhelenswood.org/> of any developments and encourage you to check it.

We are committed to supporting our students, who deserve the very best education that we can deliver. As such we are disappointed that industrial action was deemed appropriate by NASUWT, despite efforts by the school to engage in meaningful dialogue. I would like to reassure parents/carers that the school is committed to continue to discuss the issues of the dispute in order to find a resolution and prevent strike action. We are due to meet with senior members of NASUWT on 12 May.



Principal: Tracy Dohel

We are enormously grateful for the hard work of staff at Ark Helenswood, and feel it is vital that we continue to work together to address the school improvement priorities and improve the outcomes and life chances of our students.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Dohel', written over a horizontal line.

Ms T Dohel  
Principal