



9th May 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to inform you that we have been notified of potential industrial action at our Academy by the NASUWT Teachers Union, who are proposing strikes on the following days:

- 16th & 17th May 2018
- 23rd & 24th May 2018
- 7th & 8th June 2018

There is no requirement for the union 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, so we are giving you as much advance notice as possible and letting you know how and when we will update you in the future.

Our main concern, as always, is the safety, health and wellbeing of our students. The timing of these proposed strikes is very unfortunate as this falls within the exam season for our Year 11 to 13 students. We are taking steps to minimise disruption to their studies at this important time and I would like to emphasise that, regardless of this action, all exams will continue as scheduled – the examinations boards do not allow for exams to be moved or postponed.

In the event that the strike takes place on 16th and 17th 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. Break and lunch arrangements will remain the same, as will the start and end time of the school day. We will make sure that there are organised revision sessions available on all of the strike dates for these year groups.

There is also an upcoming Year 7 Parent/Carer evening that coincides with one of the strike days. This event will be rescheduled and we will update you about the new day and time in due course. Parents/carers of students from Years 7-10 selected for the ESAA Athletics team should note that this event will still be going ahead. Miss Poole will send out further details to those students involved.

We will confirm the arrangements as soon as possible for the other proposed strike days.

If the action goes ahead, parents and carers will be notified by email, the letter will be posted 1st class to those parents/carers not registered to receive notifications by email, time permitting. We will also keep you updated via the school website <http://arkhelenswood.org> of any developments and I encourage you to check the site regularly.



Principal: Tracy Dohel

As I mentioned in a previous letter, 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 at this sensitive time for our students and I wanted to reassure you that we are in ongoing communications with the union and working hard to do everything we can to reach an agreement that averts this strike.

As always, we are hugely 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.

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