



Tuesday 28th June 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Strike Action: Tuesday 5th July

I am sure that you are aware that members of staff in the NUT are planning to take industrial action on 5 July. This action is not against Sir William Ramsay School itself; the unions are demanding increased funding to schools, guarantees around working conditions and further work to tackle workload issues. A significant number of our staff are members of the NUT and are therefore eligible to take strike action. There is no requirement for these staff to indicate that they intend to take action until the day itself. Teachers not taking industrial action are not allowed to cover the classes of colleagues who are on strike; it is very difficult to plan the day precisely.

The impact on individual schools can be variable, depending upon the proportion of teaching staff who may be involved in the action. At this school, that proportion amounts to a high percentage and at this level of potential teacher absence it becomes impossible to operate the school normally, as the reduced level of supervision puts student safety at risk.

Therefore, I have made the decision to close Sir William Ramsay School to all students on Tuesday 5th July.

I hope that parents and carers of Year 8 have already received my note on the newsletter in relation to moving the Parent Consultation Evening to Wednesday 6th July from 1630 – 1900. I do appreciate that there is a chance that this may now clash with Eid ul Fitr and I'm sorry if this is the case. However, there is no other day in which we can place the consultation event, especially given the activities we are planning for our anniversary the following week. I will ask staff members to follow up individual concerns or questions and provide feedback for you if it transpires that you are unable to attend.

Head teachers never take the decision to close the school lightly. However, this dispute is lawful and we are left with no alternative but to take the appropriate steps necessary to ensure the health and safety of our students.

I acknowledge that closures can be an inconvenience to parents and I thank you in advance for your forbearance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Mayne
Head