

BHU/cgr

24 November 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been informed by a range of public service unions and Professional Associations that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Wednesday 30th November 2011.

This action is not against the College itself but is part of national industrial action organised by these trade unions and Professional Associations about changes to the pensions schemes of their members.

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.

We are not legally allowed to close the College 'in sympathy' with the strike and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the safety of our students. The College will only close if, in the opinion of the Principal, it is not safe to remain open.

At this stage, based on the information available, it would be unsafe to open the College as normal as staffing levels will be insufficient to ensure the safety of students. It is our intention to open the College to staff and those students whose parents/carers are unable to make suitable alternative supervision arrangements. Lessons will not proceed as normal: there will be sessions of private study supervised by available staff.

We understand service buses will run as normal on that day. You should check the availability of private buses or taxis with your contact person.

To ensure the smooth planning of this day we need you to notify us if your child will be coming to school and if they require a lunch. This day will not be counted for attendance purposes - it will be classed as a school closure day. We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr B Hunter

Principal