1st July 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been informed by the National Union of Teachers (NUT), Unison and the GMB that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Thursday 10th July 2014.

This action is not against Kirkby Stephen Grammar School itself but is part of national industrial action organised by these unions in relation to matters they are in dispute with government over, namely pay progression, pensions, jobs and workload (Source NUT press release).

As a result, the school will be partially closed on Thursday 10th July. **We will remain open to all students involved in Bloody Bones and to all other students in years 7, 8 and 9.** Year 12 will be on work experience, therefore the only year group not to attend school is Year 10. We appreciate that this may cause problems with child care arrangements for some families and I therefore wished to give you as much notice as possible.

If we were to remain open to all students, I could not guarantee safe supervision and teaching of all the groups on that day. If action is prolonged, we will endeavour to protect the education of those on examination courses. During the day of closure all students should complete any school work set for them.

Those staff not involved in the action will be expected to work as normal on preparation, planning and assessment.

As you may be aware, the national negotiations are still continuing, and it is still possible that the strike could be called off at very short notice. Should this happen, I will use every available communication channel to inform you of the situation, including the school website, Schoolcomms, texts to mobiles, school answer phone and the media.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused to you and your families as a result of this industrial action. We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Houston
Headteacher