23rd November 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Industrial Action: Wednesday, 30th November

We have been informed by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, the National Union of Teachers, the NASUWT, NAHT, Unison, Unite and the GMB unions that their members will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Wednesday, 30th November, following ballots. This will therefore involve both teaching and support staff at the school.

This action is not against Kirkby Stephen Grammar School itself, but is part of national industrial action organised by these trades unions about changes to the pension schemes of their members.

I have been informed that in total there will be 27 members of staff taking action on the 30th November. As a result, there will be insufficient staff in school that day to ensure that all the pupils are taught and safely supervised. This includes having insufficient First Aiders on site. My main concern is the safety of our pupils.

School will therefore be closed to all pupils on Wednesday 30th November.

If we were to remain open, I could not guarantee safe supervision and teaching of all the groups on that day. Furthermore, it is unlikely that lessons would be normal and there would have to be sessions of private study supervised by a member of the School Leadership Team. If action is prolonged, we will endeavour to protect the education of those on examination courses. All pupils should complete any school work set by their teachers during the day of closure.

I will notify the bus companies that school will be closed so that services that only affect KSGS are cancelled.

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

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 and the bus companies of the situation, including the school website, School Comms, texts to mobiles, school answer phone and the media.

I apologise again 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

David Keetley
Headteacher