3 July 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

An important letter with two very contrasting themes

STRIKE ACTION ON THURSDAY 10 JULY 2014

You might have seen in the news that some teachers and support staff will be taking strike action on Thursday 10 July. The strike is about the proposed changes to teachers’ pay, pensions and conditions and support staff pay. The argument is not with the school, but our school will be affected by the strike. A significant number of our staff will be taking strike action, others will be working normally.

However, we also have 160 boys from Year 6 visiting our school from Primary Schools on that day. Under normal circumstances this causes considerable disruption to our normal school day, as you might imagine. With this additional teaching commitment and the absence of colleagues on strike, we will not be able to guarantee the safety of all of our children on that day so we will need to close the school to some students because otherwise classes will not be properly supervised.

Do not send your child to school if he is in Year 7, 8, 9 or 10 on this day. Year 12 students and any students involved in preparations and rehearsals for the summer concert should attend as normal. Year 12 students may find that a teacher is absent for some of their lessons and should use the time for effective private study.

I know that making alternative arrangements for your children will be difficult for some parents, but as we cannot guarantee the health and safety of the boys this is the most effective solution.

SHELTER BOX: NON-UNIFORM DAY ON FRIDAY 11 JULY

Under other circumstances I would be writing to say that we would return to normal on Friday, however on this occasion we have a week of planned charity events organised by the Senior Prefect Team, culminating in a non-uniform day on Friday in aid of the Shelter Box organisation. This is a fantastic charity supported by the Rotary Club which provides resources for families in crisis and disaster zones. Millions of families around the world are homeless right now because of war, famine or natural disasters. The Shelter Box contains everything a family of four needs to survive and then hopefully restart their lives. Please encourage your son to show his support by taking part in as many of the activities as possible and by donating as much as possible. Wearing non-uniform is of course voluntary, but we will be requesting a minimum £2.00 donation to wear non-uniform.

Thanks as always for your support of the school.

Yours faithfully

M Brown
Head Teacher