



BELFAST MODEL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Principal: Mr E. Wright, BSc (Hons), PGDE, NPQH

10th January 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As I'm sure you are aware from coverage in the media, the teaching union, the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) is planning to take industrial action on Wednesday 18th January 2017. This is a dispute between INTO members at the school and the employers; it is not a dispute with the school.

The action, a **half day** strike, will result in class or whole school closures across Northern Ireland.

The decision to close the school and / or send pupils home is never taken lightly, but in this instance, where staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, I will have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils.

I know that class / school closures inconvenience parents and carers so I am writing to give you advance notice of the likely impact of the action on this school. If the action does go ahead:

Pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 will be required to REMAIN AT HOME.

For pupils in Years 11, 12, 13 and 14 at this very important time for examinations, school will be open as normal, ALL DAY. Pupils in Year 11,12, 13 and 14 should THEREFORE ATTEND AS NORMAL.

As this is a half day action, those staff taking industrial action will be back in school to teach at 12.30. Therefore, parents in Years 8, 9 and 10 may send their daughters into school at 12.30 to start classes. Regrettably, we will not be able to provide transport to school for this 12.30 start but a normal bus service will run at the end of the school day to take pupils home, including after school club buses. If pupils are unable to come into school at 12.30 because of the morning of industrial action, their attendance figures will not be affected.

Should the strike action be called off by INTO, then I will communicate this through our website and a text message to parents and the school will open for all pupils. Please do check our website in the days leading up to 18th January 2017 for regular updates.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E Wright
Principal

