

3rd April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware from my previous correspondence, some members of the National Education Union (NEU) working at Cumberland remain in dispute regarding employment terms and conditions and the governors' decision to join the Community Schools Trust. This is in spite of terms and conditions for staff being guaranteed by CST and the governors and Leadership of the school being confident that working with CST is the best way of improving outcomes for our pupils.

The NEU have now informed me of their intention to take further strike action including a number of days in April. The proposed dates in April are:

- Wednesday 18 April 2018
- Thursday 19 April 2018
- Tuesday 24 April 2018
- Wednesday 25 April 2018
- Thursday 26 April 2018

Like you I am very disappointed and concerned about the impact this will have on our pupils' learning. Governors and I will be speaking to all staff on April 17th to discuss this.

The school will be open on these days for all year 11 pupils and it is essential they attend every day in these final weeks before the GCSE exams begin. With regards other year groups, I am carefully assessing the implications of their attendance for the operation of the school. I will make a final decision regarding whether we can safely have other year groups, including pupils in the Resource Provision, in school once I have more information. I will confirm this with you as soon as possible. We will be endeavouring to ensure that pupils have work to complete if they are not in school.

Please check the school's website regularly for further important information.

I understand the concern and frustration that this news will cause and very much wish I was not forced to close the school for some of our pupils. Please be assured that I will endeavour to keep the school open for as many pupils as is safe to do so.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Dineen
Headteacher