Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Trade Union Industrial Action: Thursday 10th 2014

As you are no doubt aware the NUT, GMB and UNISON have indicated that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Thursday 10th July 2014. The action is not against the school itself but is part of national industrial action organised by these trade unions.

Please be aware that in ARK academies only the NUT will be taking this strike action. GMB and Unison have not balloted their members in ARK academies and therefore staff members in these trade unions will be expected to attend work as normal.

In terms of the NUT action, there is no requirement for trade unions to inform us of which members of staff will take action, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members to obey a strike call.

Neither the Governing Body, nor the Principal, is legally allowed to close the school ‘in sympathy’ with the strike and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the safety of our students. The school will only close if, in the opinion of the Principal, it is not safe to remain open. If it does remain open, it is unlikely that all lessons will be normal and there may have to be sessions of private study supervised by senior staff.

A significant number of teaching staff have already confirmed that they will be in school as usual on Thursday 10th July so we know that most timetabled lessons will continue as normal. At this stage, however, we do not know the intentions of every teacher timetabled to teach on this day and union members are not obliged to inform us of their intentions in advance of the day of action.

Given the information we have to date our current plan is to keep both school sites open for all year groups on Thursday 10th July and run as near to normal a day as possible. All students must bring independent work to school on this day in the event that their teacher is absent due to strike action and they are required to undertake supervised independent study.

All students are expected to attend school as usual on this day. Where students are absent without good reason (ill health or previously approved exceptional circumstances) the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Parents/carers should be aware that, in the unlikely event that our assessment of the staffing situation for Thursday 10th July changes markedly from the current position, I may have to review the arrangements above in light of the School’s requirement to ensure that the health and safety of students is properly addressed. If I have to make changes to these arrangements I will, of course, communicate this to parents/carers as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Monk
Principal