To: Parents/Carers of All Pupils
at Great Torrington School

3rd March 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

Strike Action – Wednesday, 26th March 2014

We have been informed by the NUT Union that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Wednesday, 26th March 2014 in the South West.

This action is not against Great Torrington School itself, but is part of national industrial action organised by this trade union about changes to the pension scheme and conditions of service of their members.

There is no requirement on 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 of unions to obey a strike call.

Neither the governing body nor the Head 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 pupils. GTS will only close if in the opinion of the Head it is not safe to remain open. If it does remain open, it is unlikely that lessons will be normal and there may have to be sessions of private study supervised by a senior member of staff. If action is prolonged, we will endeavour to protect the education of those on examination courses.

Because we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to close may have to be taken at the last minute. Every effort will be made to give notice, at the latest by the day before; but in case the decision has to be made on the day itself, we are asking parents to nominate a place of safety, which may be your home, to which your child can go if we have to close.

We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Commander M Bamborough MBE RN
Chairman of Governors