



**Loreto Secondary School,
Spawell Road,
Wexford.**

Telephone: (053) 9142783
Fax: (053) 914773
E-mail: loretowexford@eircom.net
Website: www.loretowexford.com
Office hours: 8.15 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., Monday to Friday

Thursday, 20 October 2016

Dear parents/guardians and students,

I write simply to update you on the situation relating to the industrial action that has been announced by the Association of Secondary Teachers, Ireland (ASTI). This industrial action arises from an ongoing dispute at national level between the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the ASTI.

The ASTI has announced seven days of strike action, as follows:

October 27; November 8,16,24,29; December 6,7.

In addition, the ASTI has said that its members will withdraw from all supervision and substitution duties on and from Monday, 7 November. Given the short notice of this action, there is a very real possibility that schools may not be in a position to re-open after the mid-term break as it could prove impossible to provide adequate supervision arrangements for students in their care.

Talks between the parties to the dispute are continuing, with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, 24 October.

Whilst this is a national dispute, the effects will be felt very locally. Central to our thoughts at this time must be our students whose education could be adversely affected if a solution is not found quickly.

This school's Board of Management will be meeting next Tuesday at 4.30 p.m. to consider the situation and its decisions relating to it. It is expected that a further letter to families will be issued early on Wednesday morning, 26 October.

I ask you, please, to keep a close eye on our website - www.loretoxford.com – over the coming days and weeks as this will be the primary means of communication between school and home at this difficult time.

I am available to deal with any questions that you may have arising from this letter. Above all, I am hoping and praying that seated around the table working on a solution will be people of good intention and reason who will be particularly mindful of all those affected by this industrial action and the uncertainty associated with it.

Kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

Billy O' Shea,
Principal.