



29, November 2017

Industrial Action - Monday, December 4 2017 from 8:30am to 12:30pm

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, negotiations are continuing between Catholic employers and the Independent Education Union about a new Enterprise Agreement for teachers and other school staff. Recently, staff voted about their school taking possible industrial action. The outcome of that vote is that a large number of staff at Bethlehem College have chosen to take part in this strike action. This protected industrial action will occur on Monday, December 4 between 8.30am and 12.30pm.

Negotiating a new Enterprise Agreement is very challenging. There is always a wide range of views about what a new agreement should look like. Staff have a right to take industrial action under the conditions of the Fair Work Act, but equally staff have a right not to take part in a strike. Unfortunately, this action is likely to cause some disruptions to the school day. There will be no Periods 1 - 3 on Monday, December 4, 2017 and the school office will not be open.

The success of our Catholic schools is due in no small measure to our highly skilled, committed staff. The draft agreement put forward by Catholic employers for consideration, and which is currently the subject of negotiations with the union, is a response to the changing nature of schools, and an attempt to achieve a high-quality outcome both staff and students.

Please note the following arrangements for this day:

- **The Year 10 Careers excursions to Macquarie University and Australian Catholic University will go ahead as per the arrangements in the excursion letter. Year 10 need to arrive at school in their full summer uniform by 8.20am.**
- While the school will be open, there will be limited supervision before 12:30pm so you may choose to keep your daughter/s at home until **12.20pm** when she is expected to arrive to commence Period 4.

I apologise for any inconvenience that this industrial action will cause your family.

Yours faithfully,

Paula Bounds

Mrs Paula Bounds
Principal