

Headteacher: Mr A Cunningham

Deputy Headteacher: Ms S Rainey

Assistant Headteacher: Mr C Jeremy

11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parent

### Global Climate Change Strikes

During recent months, there has been a wave of ‘strike’ action taken by young people in schools across the world in response to climate change predictions. These student ‘strikes’ are set to reach a small number of UK school’s on 15th February and typically involve students walking out of school, or not attending school, to attend a protest event in their community. Young people from across the world have been taking part in this action in a bid to demonstrate their dissatisfaction at the lack of progress made by adults in tackling climate change predictions.

Whilst we are not currently aware of any plans for such a ‘strike’ in the local area, we are naturally concerned that such action would place young people in a vulnerable situation as they would be leaving the security and care of staff at The Lakes School.

In short, ‘strike’ action of any sort has to end at some point and then other approaches have to be explored. We would always encourage students to invest time in these other approaches in the belief that educating the world can be done in many ways without jeopardising their own education.

We felt it was important to make you aware of this global action so that you can be prepared for any conversation you may need to have with your child. We would like to request your support in discouraging Lakes School students from engaging in such action and we offer the following information to illustrate the school’s position and in support of the conversations you may need to have with your child, should the topic of a ‘strike’ on 15th February 2019 become a point of discussion in your household.

The Lakes School enjoys very positive relationships with students and we very much encourage our students to realise that they are at a school, and growing up in a world, where they can ‘make things happen’. Most important to us is that students at The Lakes School have a voice and they learn to use that voice in a thoughtful and articulate way to bring about change for the good of all members of the community. We believe that discussion, listening and education are key to bringing about positive change.

Every week, students talk to me about ideas they have that will bring the school to life; fundraising for charity, raising funds for the school, start-up business ideas and this is on top of student voice discussions that help us make improvements to the service we provide to students. In addition, our Parent Forum provides a great way for parents to work closely with the school to improve the service we provide.

We are a school that believes in empowering young people to have a voice and to make that voice heard in the most effective way to bring about positive change. As such, we would like your child to know that staff at The Lakes School will always respond positively to any ideas that they may have about how to educate the world about global issues such as climate



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change. As always, we will be ready to listen and willing to discuss any ideas with a view to shaping them in to a feasible and appropriate project.

We believe that our ethos, as described above, helps to foster a healthy approach to taking positive action and one that we feel is in harmony with the reason parents choose The Lakes School for their child.

In closing, I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this matter and to reassure you that The Lakes School is committed to supporting students who are keen to raise awareness of global issues. Given the healthy approach described in this letter, you will I'm sure appreciate that we would not be able to support students who take 'strike' action.

Should this topic become a point of discussion in your household, I hope that this letter provides you with a strong basis upon which to discuss the matter with your child and I would encourage you to get in touch should you require any further information.

Kind regards



Andy Cunningham  
Headteacher



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