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**To: TUI Workplace Representatives / ASTI School Stewards**

* **for the attention of all members**

9th January, 2015

**Junior Cycle Framework – Strike Action : Thursday, 22nd January**

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, following the day of strike action on 2nd December, the Minister asked Dr. Pauric Travers, who had chaired the talks involving the Department of Education and Skills and the TUI/ASTI in November, to engage with the unions and the Department with a view to establishing if there was a viable basis for further discussions.

The ASTI and TUI met with Dr. Travers on 19th December and advised him that the unions are prepared to engage in further talks without preconditions. We also reiterated our principled position in relation to external, state certified assessment and capacity, at school and individual level, to accommodate the changes proposed. Today, Dr. Travers has scheduled a meeting of all sides for Wednesday, 14th January.

However, in line with the overwhelming mandate provided by members in our respective ballots and because of the failure of the Minister to meet our legitimate, professional position, a further day of strike action has been scheduled for 22nd January, 2015. In light of the fact that, to date, our position in respect of external assessment has not been met, it is vital that this strike proceed and be fully supported. The day of action on 2nd December was a very influential demonstration of resolve and solidarity and provided clear public evidence of the determination of teachers to protect standards and the quality of education at Junior Cycle.

We wish to thank you for your commitment as evidenced on 2nd December and have no doubt that this commitment will again be in evidence on 22nd January.

Members must also be fully aware of and abide by the other strands of our industrial action as set out in the directive – copy attached. In particular, members must not, under any circumstances, attend or participate in any activity or event related to the new Junior Cycle Framework.

Yours sincerely,

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| Philip Irwin\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Philip Irwin  ASTI President | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gerry Quinn  TUI President | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ John MacGabhann  TUI General Secretary | pat king  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pat King  ASTI General Secretary |