

Monday 24 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - updated information on strike action for teachers

27 April (whole country)	2 May (whole country)
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As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking further industrial action in the form of strike action on **Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May 2023**.

This industrial action is not against Outwood Academy Hemsworth itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the trade unions about salary negotiations with the Department for Education. Neither the Outwood Grange Academies Trust Board nor myself as Principal are legally allowed to close the academy in sympathy with the strike, and we will not do so. However, my main concern is the health and safety of students. The academy will only close (partially or fully) if, in my opinion and following a full risk assessment, it is not safe to remain open.

Due to the number of staff taking action, I have made the difficult decision to **partially close the academy on Thursday 27 April to students in Years 7, 8 and 9**. Whilst the academy will be closed to these year groups, online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students and they will be expected to complete the work set. All students have access to their Year Group Google classroom and must accept the invite to this classroom in order to access the work provided.

Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and any identified vulnerable students will be expected to attend as normal. Students attending the academy should arrive ready for the usual 8.25 am start and are expected to attend in normal uniform or Post 16 Business Dress. There are

no planned changes to the academy bus services on Thursday 27 April. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who are in receipt of free school meals may attend the academy between 12pm and 1pm for their lunch. A link will be sent out for families in receipt of Free School Meals to place an order.

Examination preparation for Year 11 and Year 13 will continue as planned and the academy will be utilising all resources available to support students' preparations. Year 10 will attend an assembly in the Dome during tutor time during which any amendments to their timetable will be explained. Year 11 will register in the canteen when their timetable will be issued. Post 16 students will follow their normal timetable, using the Achievement Centre as their study facility in the event their timetabled lesson is affected by strike action.

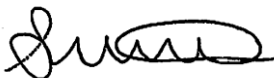
As we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to fully close may have to be taken at the last minute. However, every effort will be made to give you as much notice as possible if the academy was to be fully closed to all students.

In order to ensure that we can communicate any changes to these plans at short notice; which may include on the day itself, we are asking parents/carers to ensure that we hold up to date emergency contact details. If you do need to make any changes, please send to our dedicated email address for this purpose enquires@hemsworth.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Further information will be sent out on Friday 28 April 2023 regarding provision for Tuesday 2 May 2023.

We understand that there will be concerns about the disruption but we want to give you this advance notice and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding at this time.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Day
Principal