

24 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - updated information on strike action for teachers

| | |
|---|--|
| 28 February (Northern, North West, Yorks & Humber) | 15 March 16 March (whole country) (whole country) |
|---|--|

As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking a second day of industrial action in the form of strike action on **Tuesday 28 February**.

The other two further proposed dates are Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March but I will update you of the plans closer to those dates as the Secretary of State continues to meet with trade unions to try to resolve the outstanding issues. Whilst we have been informed of these further proposed dates (15 and 16 March), please presume that the school will be open to all until we confirm otherwise ahead of each date; this will be via our normal text service.

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 Tuesday 28 February 2023 to students in Years 7-10**. 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 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 Tuesday 28 February 2023. Students in

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

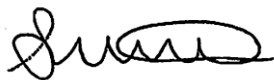
Years 7-10 who are in receipt of free school meals may attend the academy between 12pm and 1pm for their lunch. A link will be sent out for families in receipt of Free School Meals to place an order.

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. We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date. The planned parents' evening for Years 8 and 9 will go ahead and any changes to staff availability will be communicated via our SchoolCloud system on the morning of the Strike Action.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Day', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Day
Principal