

23 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

- 1st March (West Midlands and East Midlands)
- 15th & 16th March (whole country)

As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking industrial action in the form of strike days. The next scheduled date is Wednesday 01 March. The other two dates are Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March but we will update you of the plans closer to those dates as the Secretary of State is meeting with trade unions to try to resolve the outstanding issues.

This action is not against Outwood Academy Newbold 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, our main concern is the health and safety of our students. The academy will only close (partially or fully) if, in our opinion and following a full risk assessment, it is not safe to remain open.

Due to the number of staff taking action, we have made the difficult decision to partially close the academy on the 1st March to most students in Years 7 - 10 and Year 12 with the exception of any vulnerable students who will be expected to attend as normal. We will notify individual families directly if their sons or daughters are expected to attend as a vulnerable student. The same criteria will be used as for the last strike day.

Any Year 10 student who studies Art is expected to attend the academy for the full day (from 08:25 until 14:30) in order to complete their coursework prior to the deadline.

Any student who is part of the High School Musical production is expected to attend for the full day in order to complete rehearsals and preparations for the show. These students are not expected to wear their academy uniform but should arrive in their academy PE kit.

A summary of the arrangements is shown below:

Year	Students expected to attend
13	All students will follow their normal timetable (including enrichments).
11	All students will follow their normal timetable (including enrichments).
10	GCSE Art students, vulnerable students and High School Musical members.
12, 7, 8 & 9	Vulnerable students and High School Musical members.

Whilst the academy will be closed to some students, online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students and students will be expected to complete the work set.

Students in all year groups in receipt of free school meals may attend the academy (via visitors reception) between 12.00 and 12:30pm to collect a packed lunch. Please inform Mrs Hardy by no later than Tuesday 28th February 12.00pm at: s.hardy@newbold.outwood.com, if you would like to collect a packed lunch.

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 notice - at the latest by the day before.

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@newbold.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



Rob Southern
Principal