

25th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

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 first date scheduled is Wednesday 01 February. The other three dates are Wednesday 01 March, 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 first day (01 February) to most students in Years 7 - 10 and Year 12 with the exception of any vulnerable students who can attend as normal. We will notify individual families directly if their sons or daughters are able to attend as a vulnerable student. The criteria being used are children who are looked after, students who are under child protection or child in need plans and any student with an education and health care plan. We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date.

Any Year 10 student who studies Performing Arts (drama & music) is expected to attend the academy for the full day (from 08:25 until 14:30) in order to take part in a performance masterclass that will assist them in completing their course.

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 are expected to attend the academy as normal and will follow their usual timetable. The academy day will begin and end at the normal times with enrichments for Year 11 students continuing as normal.

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 between 12.00 and 12:30 for their lunch. Students should access the academy via visitors reception where they will be given lunch to take away with them.

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