

25 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

- **1st February (whole country)**
- **1st March West Midlands and East Midlands**
- **15th March (whole country)**
- **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 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 Valley 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 close the academy on the first day (01 February) to all students apart from Year 11 who will be expected to attend as normal, with the exception of any vulnerable students who can attend as normal. Vulnerable students can be defined as looked after children, children in need, child protection and children who have a Education Health Care Plan. We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date.

Students in all year groups in receipt of free school meals may attend to collect a lunch bag between 12.30pm and 1pm. If you would like to collect a lunch bag please complete [this Google Form](#).

For Year 11 and vulnerable students, the academy will be open as normal and students should arrive ready for the usual 8.25am start.

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@valley.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date. 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



Dave Cavill
Principal