

23 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

28 February (Northern, North West, Yorks & Humber)	15 March (whole country)	16 March (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 industrial action in the form of strike days, following the strike day on 1st February. The next date scheduled is Tuesday 28th February. 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 continues to meet with trade unions to try to resolve the outstanding issues.

Whilst we have been informed of these proposed dates, and we are informing you of them so you can plan your own arrangements, 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 action is not against Outwood Academy Adwick 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 Tuesday 28th February to all students apart from Year 11 and Year 13 who will be expected to attend as normal, with the exception of any vulnerable students who can attend as normal. Vulnerable students are defined as Looked after Children, Children in Need, Child Protection and students with an Education Health and Care Plan.

All vulnerable children in the categories above are expected to attend as usual.

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.

Free School Meals

Students in all year groups in receipt of free school meals are entitled to request and collect a meal for the day consisting of a sandwich, dessert and a drink. Alternatively parents may request for their child to attend the academy for a hot-meal. Based on numbers accessing this provision we will share a half-hour dining slot which they can attend. All students accessing this provision will be expected to wear full academy uniform. Requests can be made by completing the form below:

<https://forms.gle/eC7rwtuPgevuIx2B7>

For students in Year 11 and 13; the academy will be open as normal and students should arrive ready by 8:15 am for the usual 8.25 am start.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 should access learning from home via Google classroom. Each student will access their personal account and will have appropriate lessons and activities to continue their learning. Students regularly use the Google platform in the academy and will be familiar with accessing this provision.

Please find below an academy Google-classroom support website to support student and family access and the links to each Google Classroom.

Home Learning Support: <https://sites.google.com/outwood.com/home-learning-site?pli=1>

Year 7: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTUxNjAxNzQxMjQw>

Year 8: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTUxNjA1MzM5OTA3>

Year 9: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTUxNjA0MTQ5NTc4>

Year 10: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTUxNjAxMjg0NTUx>

Year 12 will access via their personal Google classrooms

Vulnerable students

Vulnerable students are expected to attend the academy as normal. (Looked after Children, Children in Need, Child Protection and students with an Education Health and Care Plan). Students should register in the Bridge by 8.25. We have devised a day to focus on their personal development as well as academic studies, with close support from our Inclusion team. Activities will include; Duke of Edinburgh's Award skills, food & catering skills, orienteering, Google classroom and sports & fitness. The usual lunch provisions will be available.

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

As we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision for further partial closures or 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@adwick.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 'A Scruby', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Andy Scruby
Principal