

9 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Potential Strike Action

National Education Union - potential strike action for teachers 15 - 16 March 2023

As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed their potential strike days. The next ***potential strike action*** has been planned for ***Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023***.

This action is not against Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth 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.

The difficult decision has been made to close the academy on **Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March** to all students apart from those in Year 11. The academy will also be open to the same vulnerable students that were invited in on the previous strike day. The timings of the school day for students remains the same (8.20am to 2.30pm). I will now outline the plans for students in all year groups and for vulnerable students.

Provision for Year 11 students in school

Students will follow their usual timetable and attend their mock exams as scheduled on the dates affected. The mock timetable will be adhered to as per the published schedule, and the day will begin with a hot breakfast offering at 8am.

In school provision for vulnerable students across all year groups

Supervised study in a space with ICT access allowing students to access online work set by teachers.

Students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 - academy is closed to these year groups

The academy will be closed to students in these year groups unless they are vulnerable and therefore able to attend school if you wish them to. Student absence from school on this day will not be reflected in their attendance data. Students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 can work at home on Google Classroom. They can complete homework, Sparx maths, Hegarty maths or subject specific activities that have been set.

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.

Catering arrangements

The school canteen will be open at break and lunch time with a range of food available as normal for students in Year 11 and vulnerable students who are in attendance at school. The canteen will be supervised by staff. If your child is in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 or Year 10 and is eligible for a free school meal you can request one by emailing enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com or calling 01642 586262. Lunch will be available for collection from Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth's main reception.

In order to ensure that we can communicate any further 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 to these, please send to our dedicated email address for this purpose enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible and to keep you fully informed.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding at this time.

Yours faithfully,

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

Mr Jason Rhodes
Head of School