

13 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

With half term approaching and the new half term not starting until Monday 27 February I thought it important to highlight the following information.

National Education Union - potential strike action for teachers on Tuesday 28 February 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 **Tuesday 28 February 2023** the day after our return from half term. I wanted to remind you in advance in case this strike goes ahead. We will update you on Monday 27 February if this strike goes ahead, but clearly it would be short notice. I felt this reminder would be helpful for you.

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 Head of School 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.

If the **potential strike action does go ahead** the difficult decision will be made to close the academy 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 (8.25am to 2.30pm). I will now outline the plans for students in all year groups and for vulnerable students.

Provision for Year11 students in school

Year 11 will attend lessons as normal. There will be some small group tuition with 1:1 tutors. **No** remote work will be set or workpacks available for these students on that day

In school provision for vulnerable students across all year groups

Those students who are invited into the Academy will attend in line with the times above. They will have access to online lessons set through google classroom in line with their peers. They will be supported by a range of adults during the day. There will be no enrichment on this day.

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.

Catering arrangements on 28 February 2023

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 responding to the SMS that will be sent to you. Lunches will be available for collection from reception from 11.30am - 1.00pm.

We will confirm whether this action goes ahead on our return to the academy following our half term break. **This communication will come out on the 27 February 2023.**

School will be open as normal from Wednesday 1 March. We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike dates later in the Spring which are the 15 and 16 March.

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 'JR', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Jason Rhodes
Head of School