



27th 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 1st February. The other three dates are Tuesday 28th February, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th 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.

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 Riverside 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, 1st February, to all students with the exception of any vulnerable students who can attend as normal.** Those students will be contacted individually.

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

Whilst the academy will be closed to most students, online learning via Google Classroom will be available and students will be expected to complete the work set.

Students in all year groups in receipt of free school meals may attend between 12.00pm and 1.00pm to collect a packed lunch from Main Reception.

*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@riverside.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



Melissa Brant-Smith
Principal