



28 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

The National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking further industrial action in the form of strike days on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July 2023.

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.

Following a full risk assessment, it is not safe to remain open, therefore the difficult decision has been made to close the academy to all students. The academy will be open to the same vulnerable students that were invited in on the previous strike days. 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.

In school provision for vulnerable students across all year groups

Students in Year 7, 8, and 9 will work in a room on Google Classroom. They can complete homework, Sparx maths, Hegarty maths or subject specific activities that have been set. They will also have a morning break, lunch break and a Health Wellbeing lesson. Some students will also be invited to work in the Discovery Room and the Library.

Students in Year 7, 8, 9 - 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, and 9 can work at home on Google Classroom. They can complete homework, Sparx maths, Hegarty maths or subject specific activities that have been set.

Students who are due to take their upcoming LAMDA examinations may be invited in for a practice session during the two strike days. We will be contacting parents individually for those involved.

Catering arrangements on 5th July and 7th July 2023

The school canteen will be open at break and lunch time for vulnerable students who are in attendance at school. The canteen will be supervised by staff.

If your child is in Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9 and is eligible for a free school meal you can request one by completing and submitting the Google Form that will be posted on our academy website (<https://forms.gle/vcyqmy2X3FWvFfePA>). A packed lunch will be available for collection from Main Reception between 12.00pm and 1.00pm.

School will be open as normal on Thursday 6th July and again from Monday 10 July 2023.

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@riverside.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 dark ink, appearing to read 'M Brant-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Melissa Brant-Smith
Principal