

February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

Further to the National Education Union (NEU) confirming that their teaching members would be taking industrial action in the form of strike days, the second strike day is due to take place next Tuesday 28th February 2023. There are also strike days planned for 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.

This action is not against Outwood Academy Foxhills 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 2023 to all students, apart from Year 11 who will be expected to attend as normal. Any vulnerable students can also attend as normal. We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date.

Whilst the academy will be closed to some students, online learning activities will be available to all students, who will be expected to complete the work set on Google Classroom. All students need to sign into their Google Classroom account (<https://classroom.google.com/>) and then accept the invitation to the classroom for their year group e.g Year 7. Once they click into this classroom there is work available for each lesson that your child should attend that day alongside many more resources should they wish to complete more tasks.

Students in all year groups in receipt of free school meals may attend between 12:00pm and 1pm to collect a grab bag from Reception.

The academy will be open as normal to Y11 and vulnerable students and they should arrive ready for the usual 8:25am start.

As we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision 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@foxhills.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date. 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 'Tracy Motson', written in a cursive style.

Tracy Motson
Head of School
Outwood Academy Foxhills