

22nd February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **National Education Union - strike action for teachers**

### **Proposed strike days**

<b>28 February (Northern, North West, Yorks &amp; Humber)</b>	<b>15 March (whole country)</b>	<b>16 March (whole country)</b>
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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 next scheduled day is **Tuesday 28th February**. The other dates that impact Outwood Academy Ripon are Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. We will update you again of 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 Ripon 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 and staff. On Tuesday 28th February, the Academy will be partially open but only to **Year 11 students and students who fulfil the extremely vulnerable criteria**. This decision has been made following a full risk assessment, which has identified we may not have enough staff to be safe to open to all year groups.

Year 11 will be expected to attend as normal, however there may be some alteration to their usual timetabled curriculum on this day. As previously stated, those students within the extremely vulnerable category will also be invited into the Academy. Our Deeps support staff will contact parents and carers in advance and will provide further information of the provision for them on the day. The Academy will be open to these two groups of students

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.

for the usual 8.45am start, and normal Academy times will apply throughout the remainder of the day.

Whilst the Academy will be closed to some students, online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students not in the Academy, and students will be expected to complete the work set. Please ensure that your child is aware of their Google Classroom login prior to Tuesday 28th February.

Students in year groups 7 - 10 in receipt of free school meals, may attend between 12pm and 1pm to collect a pre-ordered packed lunch from Reception. Please complete this Google Form [LUNCH ORDER](#) to order your child's lunch if required.

In order to ensure that we can communicate any changes to these plans at short notice, which may include information about Google Classroom provision 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 the email address dedicated for this purpose: [enquires@ripon.outwood.com](mailto:enquires@ripon.outwood.com).

We understand that there will be concerns about the disruption and we will always endeavour to minimise that disruption as much as possible, but we wanted to give you advance notice and thank you for your patience and understanding at this time. We will update you again about the plan for the Academy before the next proposed strike date.

Yours faithfully,



Mr W Pratt.  
**Principal**