



30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, the National Education Union have declared further strike action, due to take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026. We apologise for the ongoing disruption this is causing to your child's education.

As an academy, we have taken the appropriate action to try and reduce the impact on the educational provision for our students, by staffing as many year groups as possible. Having reflected on the strike action that took place on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> January, we have arrived at the difficult decision to close the academy to Years 7, 9, 10 and 12 on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and to Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 students on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Educational provision will remain for Years 11 and 13 due to the approaching exam season.

We have put in place plans to support students and families during strike action and intend to open to some year groups, as follows:

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Year Group	Provision	Catering
Year 7	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 8	Lessons as normal	Break as normal Lunch: 12.20-12.50pm
Year 9	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 10	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 11	Lessons and exams as normal	Break as normal Lunch: 12.20-12.50pm
Year 12	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 13	Lessons as normal	Break as normal Lunch: 12.20-12.50pm



**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Year Group	Provision	Catering
Year 7	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 8	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 9	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 10	Lessons as normal	Break as normal Lunch: 12.20-12.50pm
Year 11	Lessons and exams as normal	Break as normal Lunch: 12.20-12.50pm
Year 12	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 13	Lessons as normal	Break as normal Lunch: 12.20-12.50pm

As was the case this week, we will be open to children who would be deemed vulnerable if not able to attend school for the day, and the children of critical workers. Staff will contact the families of those children but please do get in touch with the school if you would also like us to also consider your child in this group.

If your child attends either The Core or Heatherdene, please be advised that these provisions will also be running as normal. There will be no Period 6 provision on these days.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and that some will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. The Samworth Church Academy remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We know that many of our pupils receive a free school meal. To support this, those that are eligible and will not be in school the following day, will be able to collect a sandwich, if they wish, as they leave the school on Monday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon. Students are asked to collect this directly from the restaurant.

During the strike days, we will provide high quality work for students to do from home. This will be available via a link sent to all parents/carers of those students who are affected. If you do not have access to a computer or phone, please let the school know before 12pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and we will provide paper-based learning.



We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further. With regard to this, please see below the actions and progress we have made on the issues that union members have raised

Point of negotiation	Response
1265 (the number of hours teachers are required to work, as a maximum, in an academic year)	Our staff hours are 43 hours under the maximum of 1,265.
Sickness absence management	The NEU wish to modify this policy. This was not agreed to by the Trust and previous policies, ratified by all unions, will continue to be carefully applied. The policy is a Trust-wide one that is implemented across all 24 academies within the Trust. As such, any amnesty would have to be applied equally across the Trust family of academies. It would also raise significant concerns of inequality between members of staff who were subject to different implementations of the policy.
Support for children with SEND	TSCA still has a SEND support room that offers respite and interventions. However, it is widely recognised that <i>'inclusive education for children SEND in mainstream classrooms is widely considered best practice, offering significant social, emotional, and academic benefits.'</i> DfE Code of Practice
Trips/experiences	A concern that these had reduced. This is inaccurate and trips/experiences are considered to be critical to a child's wider educational experiences. They continue as normal.

If you have any questions, please do contact the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Clare Barber  
Executive Principal