

23/01/2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware that the National Education Union have declared strike action, which will place on Wednesday, 28th January, Tuesday 3rd February and Thursday 5th February 2026. We cannot be certain that this is definite but wanted to give you enough notice should it happen. If the strike action is not going to take place, we will let you know immediately.

As an academy, we have made every effort to prevent strike action and have already met three out of the four requirements set out by the union. The remaining issue concerns the union's request to review and amend our staff absence management policy - a request we have not agreed to. Accepting this would mean departing from the Trust's established policies (that all unions have previously agreed to) on staff absence. This could, in turn, affect your child's education. We believe this would be unfair. A good and fair staff absence policy does much more than reduce staff absences; it supports staff so they can be present and effective, ultimately benefitting the children in our care.

We have put in place plans and risk assessments to support students and families during strike action and intend to open, as normal, to Years 7, 11 and 13 as we do not want their learning, at this critical stage, to be compromised. Lesson and internal examinations will continue as normal for these year groups, and will be staffed appropriately. Also, we will be open to children who would be deemed vulnerable, and children of critical workers, if they were not able to access school for the day. 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.

Please see below for the plan for the 28th January:

Year Group	Provision	Catering
Year 7	Lessons as normal	Break and lunch as normal
Year 8	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 9	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 10	Closed unless contacted by school	
Year 11	Lessons and exams (maths and geography) 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

If your child attends either The Core or Heatherdene, please be advised that these will also be running as normal. There will be no Period 6 hairdressing offer on this day for Y11.

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 won't be in school the following day, will be able to collect a sandwich, if they wish, as they leave the school on Tuesday afternoon.

During the strike day, we will provide high quality work for students to do from home. This will be available on Teams. If you do not have access to a computer or phone, please let the school know on Monday, 26th January 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.

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

Yours faithfully,



Clare Barber
Executive Principal