

1 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Changing the School Day: Consultation

I am writing to you as part of a consultation process to make changes to the school day. The changes, alongside the rationale for change and timescales are set out below. We would like to hear your views before putting in place any changes for September 2020.

In summary, the proposal seeks to ensure that:

1. The pace of learning increases and we gain a higher level of student engagement by moving from six lessons of 50 minutes to five one hour lessons each day.
2. Lunchtime remains the same at 40 minutes.
3. A finish time that is different from the Acorn.
4. There is more time at the end of the day for extra-curricular activities and revision sessions but still allows for students to get home at an appropriate time.

What is the proposed change?

We would like to move the academy day finish time from 3.15pm to 3.10pm.

Why change the school day from its current format?

The need for change has been agreed by the school's leadership team as a result of the following:

Student voice

Students who have been consulted with so far have approved of having slightly longer but fewer lessons in a day. This model will remove double lessons for all subjects, with the exception of DT and PE, a preference that our students have requested throughout the academic year.

Student progress and attainment

We feel that by delivering 5 x 1hr single lessons the pace of learning will be improved and as a result capitalise on student concentration and achieve positive learning outcomes.

Research of other schools

The curriculum offer for all students across each key stage remains the same. Across the Cabot Learning Federation we share best teaching practice and create shared schemes of work for our Age Related Expectations (ARE) and public examinations. By continuing to collaborate and align our curriculum with the secondary academies within our trust, we will continue to be able to support our students effectively and ensure that they achieve their full potential.

How will we ensure the changes are made smoothly without disruption?

In deciding the new timings, we have considered the following aspects of school life:

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Impact on extra-curricular activities

We are committed to extra-curricular provision and have considered the impact the change may have on student uptake of these opportunities. We currently have a larger number of activities running after school than during the lunch break. Our commitment to running after school activities remains unchanged. We believe that an earlier finish time will encourage more students to join in with these activities.

Revision sessions

As a school we already offer a range of targeted revision sessions for individual groups of students after school. We want to use this earlier finish time to run full 45 minute revision sessions for key groups as well as students having access to the Library/Homework Club.

Finish time of local schools

For safety reasons we have deliberately structured the proposed school day to ensure a finish time that is different from the Acorn (gates open 2.45pm – 3pm). We also intend to re-locate the exit point for our students to our Lower Playground to reduce congestion on the pavements near Brook Road and Tennis Court Road.

Proposed New Timings

Activity	Monday - Friday	
	Lesson start	Lesson end
Morning Meeting	8.40am	8.50am
Lesson 1	8.50am	9.50am
Lesson 2	9.50am	10.50am
Break	10.50am	11.05am
Lesson 3	11.05am	12.05pm
Lesson 4	12.05pm	1.05pm
Lunch	1.05pm	1.45pm
Tutor Time / Assembly	1.45pm	2.10pm
Lesson 5	2.10pm	3.10pm
Extra-Curricular / Revision	3.15pm	4.00pm

Consultation Arrangements

Alongside this consultation with parents and carers, there will also be consultation with members of the Academy Council, students, staff and other stakeholders running concurrently.

If you would like to share your views, please complete this online form ([click here](#))

The consultation period will end at 12 noon on Wednesday 10 June 2020. We will then consider the comments and will inform all stakeholders of the outcome in Term 6 to facilitate any changes that may occur from September 2020.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Ogden
Associate Principal