



Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: proposal to change the length of the school day on a Wednesday

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 are proposing to close the Academy at 2pm every Wednesday to create additional time for staff training. I believe that these changes will be beneficial to the school community, and will have a positive effect on your child's education.

1. A study published by the Education Policy Institute (Fletcher-Wood & Zuccollo, 2020) concludes that the impact of high-quality CPD on student outcomes is comparable to the impact of having a teacher with 10 years' experience in front of a class instead of a graduate teacher. The research – a meta-analysis of 53 controlled trials of professional development interventions – was commissioned by the Wellcome Trust and also finds that "CPD has similar attainment effects to those generated by large, structural reforms to the school system".
2. Better availability of high-quality CPD also improves teacher retention, particularly for early-career teachers, and there is evidence that induction training and mentoring programmes are particularly effective for improving retention rates for newer teachers.
3. The research also reports indications that high-quality CPD can lead to increased student self-efficacy and confidence, too.
4. In September we will be introducing an award that allows students to develop their skills around our ASPIRE values. Students will demonstrate these skills by taking part in additional activities. The shorter day on a Wednesday will provide time for students to undertake some of these activities
5. The earlier finish for students on a Wednesday will provide additional time for Year 11 students to undertake revision and exam practise.

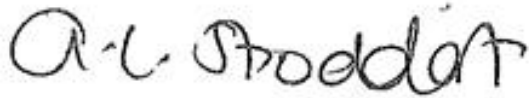
Proposed Timings

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday			Wednesday		
Arrival	08:30	08:40	Arrival	08:30	08:40
Form time	08:40	09:05	Form time		
Period 1	09:05	10:05	Period 1	08:40	09:35
Travel	10:05	10:10	Travel		
Period 2	10:10	11:10	Period 2	09:35	10:30
Break	11:10	11:25	Break	10:30	10:45
Period 3	11:25	12:25	Period 3	10:45	11:40
Period 4 incl lunch	12:25	13:55	Period 4 incl lunch	11:40	13:05
Travel	13:55	14:00	Travel		
Period 5	14:00	15:00	Period 5	13:05	14:00
			Staff CPD	14:30	16:30

Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from 1st September 2021. I appreciate that these changes may affect you, in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and in terms of your child's education. For this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your responses to postbox@shireoakacademy.co.uk

We will release the results of the consultation by 12th July and communicate these to you.

Yours sincerely



Annabel Stoddart
Headteacher