

21st May 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

With reference to my letter dated 8th May outlining proposals for changes to the timings of the Academy day and the Kick Start programme, I would like to thank all parents/carers who responded providing a range of constructive comments to aid our planning (22 responses received).

The following provides a summary of the main comments/issues raised:

- 1 Late finish on Wednesdays i.e. 4.15 pm including concerns about the winter evenings.
- 2 The value of the Kick Start programmes (a mix of positive comments and concerns about the value of these sessions).
- 3 Mentoring sessions on Monday evenings – could these be incorporated into the daily tutorial sessions?
- 4 Request for consistent start and finish times.
- 5 Preference for an earlier start e.g. 8.45 am rather than the proposed 9.00 am.
- 6 Would prefer use of Kick Start sessions for homework completion.
- 7 Request for Year 10, 11 and Post 16 students to be exempt from Kick Start sessions.
- 8 Suggestion to end the Wednesdays at 4.05 rather than 4.15.
- 9 Preference for students to leave the Academy at the end of their individual 'Monday' mentoring session.
- 10 Suggestion to add 15 minutes to the end of each day rather than have an extended Wednesday.
- 11 Reassurance requested re bus service to support proposed changes.

We have carefully considered all responses and have made amendments where possible, as detailed below (changes based on feedback in bold/italics):

- a) Each Academy day to start at 9.00 am.
- b) One Kick Start session to take place on Monday mornings commencing at 9.00 am for all students in Years 7 & 8 only (this is a compulsory element). There will be no second Kick Start session as previously suggested.***
- c) All students to engage with the Extended Learning programme on Wednesday afternoons (this is a compulsory element).***
- d) No Kick Start sessions for students in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13.***
- e) Wednesdays finish time 4.00 pm.***

In addition we will ensure that the Bus Service is changed to reflect the new timings of the Academy day. We will continue to open the canteen facility from 7.45 am each morning, therefore parents can rest assured that students will be able to access the Academy's facilities if they choose to arrive early.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support for the changes.

Have an enjoyable half-term break.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive/Principal