



Teddington School

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26 February 2019

Dear Families

Consultation on Changes to the School Year and School Day

I am writing to you regarding a proposal to change our school day and term dates with effect from September 2019. The aim is to provide the most effective curriculum for our students and to help maximise their learning opportunities.

As an academy, we are able to review and make changes to our school to best meet the needs of our students; changing the school day and school year is something other academies locally and nationally have done successfully to support whole school progress. The proposed adjustments will facilitate a better working environment for both pupils and teachers.

What are we looking to change?

The School Year

From September 2019, I propose a move from a 39 week academic year to a 37 week academic year. This would be achieved by inserting an additional week into the October half term holiday and an additional week into the Christmas holidays in 2019-2020.

The School Day

From September 2019, it is proposed that the school day changes:

1. Timetabling: moving from 6 x 50 minute lessons to 5 x 1 hour lessons per day on a 2 week timetable.
2. Fridays: 4 x 1 hour lessons on Fridays and the school day for students ending one hour earlier than currently.

The perceived benefits of the proposed changes to the school day are:

- The number of times students and staff have to move around the school between lessons is reduced – resulting in less disruption and more teaching
- Timetabling is improved with the elimination of same day subject duplication
- The longer lesson time will improve teaching and learning – less “settling down” time and more student focus
- Teachers would gain one hour Planning, Preparation & Assessment (PPA) on Friday afternoon, in order to consolidate and plan effectively for the following week.





Perceived Benefits Overall to all stakeholders

Benefits to students	Benefits to parents	Benefits to staff/school
Reasonably balanced terms	Reasonably balanced terms	Reasonably balanced terms
Anticipated improvement in school attendance (as we expect a reduction in sickness/absence)	No ad-hoc inset days	Anticipated reduction in sickness/ absence because of the extended breaks
A balanced curriculum offer, allowing longer learning episodes throughout the day and less wasted movement time around the school site.	A two week winter half term – so an opportunity to book holidays in off- peak times.	Move back towards a 6 week summer holiday allowing for full recovery
Move back towards a 6 week summer holiday allowing for full recovery	Early Friday release time allows time for students to clear homework or do sports <i>before</i> the weekend	More collaborative planning time within departments
Staff would be able to run some additional educational trips abroad during holiday time.		Improved staff recruitment and retention: staff have an opportunity to book holidays in off peak times.
An earlier finish could allow for additional time for school and non-school sports and enrichment opportunities		Less disruption from moving between classes throughout the day

Please note that implementing these proposals would put us in line with some other Richmond schools who have similar approaches - Waldegrave School has a significantly shorter school day and Grey Court School has a two week October half term holiday.

Your Views

This proposal is currently in its consultation phase and, as always, I welcome your feedback.

Please take the time to complete our brief online survey via this link. The survey can also be accessed via the SIMs parent app. When all the responses have been collated I will be in touch with my final decision. The deadline for responding is **Friday 8 March**.

<https://goo.gl/forms/czOL7ROhUAqHob0g2>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

K Pacey
Headteacher