

Wednesday 24th June 2015

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Since half-term we have had Assessment and Festival weeks, both of which were very successful, although out of routine. We therefore focused last week on the re-establishment of routines, expectations and systems. Uniform has also been a major focus as explained in the Parent Bulletin on Friday 12th June. Can I ask you again for your support in ensuring that children arrive at the Academy on time and in the correct Academy uniform as small slips in standards can result in deterioration in standards over time.

In April we consulted Level 1+ parents on a proposed change to the start of the Academy day as students moved into Level 2. The proposed change was for Level 2 students to start later along with a change to the timing of self-directed activities (SDL). We received responses from 5 parents, 2 of which were in favour and 3 who raised concerns. As a result of your feedback, as explained in my letter dated 26th May, the Level 2 timings will remain the same and we will look to phase in the later start as the students move through their 2 year programme.

I am delighted to say that the new Level 2 timetable will launch on Monday 29th June. This is the first time that we will start the new academic year's timetable before the summer and we are doing this as it sets expectations for the next level of work; it ensures that the last weeks of an academic year are as productive as the first; and it prepares students for the work over the summer. Although we are starting the new timetable, as explained above, the timings of their school day will remain the same.

As we move to nearly full capacity we have also had to look at the sustainability of our current programme of SDL. To enable us to continue with a full and rich programme and maintain choice, we have decided to reduce activities across all levels from four days to three. Therefore from September there will be no SDL on Tuesday or Friday.

From September 2015, the new timings of the day are as follows:

Foundation, Level 1, and Level 1+

Students will start each day at 0830 with lesson 1. Students' finish time will be 1630 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and 1535 on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Level 2

Students will start each day at 0830 with a Personal Study session 4 days per week, and a lesson on Tuesdays. A number of SDL sessions will also run at these times, especially where students are taking extra courses. Students' finish time will be 1630, except on Tuesdays when it will be 1530. During the Autumn Term, as students demonstrate they are making good progress in their courses, and with explicit parental permission, certain students will be permitted a later start time of 0935 on up to 4 days.

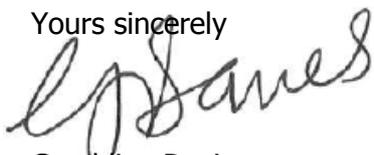
Level 3 & 3+

Students will start each day at 0935. Finish times depend on individual timetables, but very few lessons will go beyond 1630. On Tuesdays, students will finish at 1535.

Just to confirm, the timings of the day will remain the same for the remainder of the term.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Geraldine Davies
Principal