



30 April 2018

Dear Parents & Carers

We write to update you and consult with you on some important changes that we are proposing from September 2018.

**Mobile Phones - outcome of consultation**

We write to confirm that following our last consultation, Years 7-11 may only use their mobile phone under the direction of staff, during the Academy day. The overwhelming majority of parents, carers and staff agreed to our proposal and this will be explained to students and implemented from September.

**The Academy Day and Week**

We are proposing changes to the way we organise the school day and week, with different start and finishing times and a programme of weekly staff training every Wednesday afternoon. This proposal is for a slightly later start time across all five days of 08:30. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday we are proposing a later finish time of 15:20. We are proposing an early closure on Wednesdays, at 14:00.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday			Wednesday		
Wellbeing	08:30	30	P1	08:30	50
P1	09:00	50	P2	09:20	50
P2	09:50	50	Break	10:10	20
Break	10:40	20	P3	10:30	50
P3	11:00	50	P4	11:20	50
P4	11:50	50	Lunch	12:10	60
Lunch	12:40	60	P5	13:10	50
P5	13:40	50	Dismissal	14:00	
P6	14:30	50	Staff CPD		
Dismissal Intervention/ Enrichment	15:20				

**Weekly Staff Professional Development**

Aspire, Strive, Thrive,  
*Relentlessly pursuing excellence...*

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This is a very exciting development for our Academy that will help us to build on all of our strengths as we aim to become an outstanding school for teaching and learning; a school where staff development is the very best it can be. It will bring us into line with many of the Trust Academies and with our colleagues in the South East London Cluster, as The Halley and Leigh Academy Blackheath are planning the same Wednesday finish time from September.

There are several educational reasons for running our staff training using the weekly session model. There has been extensive research into effective staff development and, with our new model; we will be able to deliver a programme based on the very best practice.

Wednesday afternoons will be a time where all staff are available to engage in professional development activities, and at certain times assess, mark and moderate. With the reformed qualifications and enormous pressure of workload for all staff, the Academy is confident that this will be hugely beneficial for staff recruitment and retention, health and wellbeing as well as professional development.

### **Curriculum Provision/Other**

We are delighted that we are introducing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) from September. This brings the opportunity to re-balance the curriculum at Key Stage 3, with more emphasis on creative, expressive and practical subjects. This was discussed in the presentation given in the Parents' Forum just before Easter.

You will notice that we have changed the lesson length, reverting back to 50 minutes. This will allow us to plan a timetable with a blend of single and double lessons which are particularly beneficial to practical subjects.

In addition, the lunch break has been amalgamated into a one hour session for all. Additional 'grab and go' stations will be available for students around the campus; students who wish to enjoy a hot meal will have plenty of time to do so. We are also looking to introduce additional seating, including picnic benches outside. The extended lunch hour gives us the opportunity to offer lunchtime enrichment clubs and will also be hugely beneficial to music and drama rehearsal schedules.

### **Consultation Process**

The Academy is strongly committed to this proposal because of all the benefits it will bring to students and staff. It is very important to us, however that parents/carers and students have an opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns they might have about the changes. Students will have the chance to discuss this during Wellbeing sessions in the week commencing 30th April. If you would like to raise any question or comment, please email your Head of School by no later than Friday 11th May. For new parents with students who are joining us in Year 7 in September, please email [transition@scwa.org.uk](mailto:transition@scwa.org.uk)

Yours sincerely



**David Millar**  
**Executive Principal**