

11th May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Length of the school day

As you may have seen, the government announced earlier this year that they intend to introduce a minimum school day length for all schools in the country. They expect all schools in England to be open for a minimum of 32 hours and 30 minutes a week from September 2023. For context, this is how our current school weeks translates into hours and minutes:

- At The Dean Academy our school day runs from 08:50 until 15:15, five days-a-week (this excludes Period 6 on Wednesday and Thursday for Year 11)
- This equates to a total of 6 hours and 25 minutes a day
- Which is a total of 32 hours and 5 minutes a week
- This falls 25 minutes short of the government ambition

With the above in mind, we are proposing that we alter the timings of the school day to start five minutes earlier each day. We would like to add five minutes to tutor time each morning, this is an important part of our curriculum when students have contact time with their tutor, read on three mornings a week, receive messages about important events and opportunities in the school that day and also settle students into the routines of daily school life. This would see the school day at The Dean Academy changed to:

- The school day start time would be 08:45 (five minutes earlier) with an end time of 15:15 (the same as currently)
- This would mean that from September 2023 The Dean Academy would fall in line with this Government requirement by having an overall school day length of 32 hours and 30 minutes
- We also propose to shorten break by 5 mins but extend lunch by 5 mins to allow all students time to eat a hot meal and/or attend a meaningful lunchtime club, especially as our school grows. Please note that this aspect of the proposal will have no impact on the length of the day

We have spoken to our bus operators who have explained that an 08:45 start time would not cause any issues with the transportation of students to school and with the school end time remaining the same, this would mean no changes would be needed to our school transport timings or service.

We propose to commence this new day structure in September 2023.





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Richard Brand: Headteacher

We will now begin a two-week consultation period, running from Thursday 11th May. During this consultation period we would welcome any comments you may have about our proposed change. You can make your comments by following the below link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/L0vxdpCijx>

The consultation will close on Thursday 25th May.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand
Headteacher



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