



23rd May 2019.

Consultation to Change Timings to the Academy Day

The consultation on the proposal to change the timings of the day at The de Ferrers Academy from September 2019 has now concluded. We received a total of 61 responses: 24 from staff; 28 from parents; 1 from a student and 8 from local stakeholders. As a reminder, the rationale for the change stems from the option to remove the afternoon break in order for there to be no inter-site travel for students next year. Clearly this will improve student safety and allow for an earlier finish time. There will be no reduction in teaching time. For staff at the Academy, there will be no afternoon travel, no afternoon duties and the ability to have an hour's dedicated collaborative assessment/planning time. In line with the desire to cut workload, directed time for teachers will be reduced by at least 20 hours next year.

We have taken into account the views of many of the responses and have attempted to address the issues raised. As a result, the lunch break will remain at 50 minutes so that there is no impact on staff travel times to the Sixth Form Centre or on extra-curricular activities and additional support for students. An earlier finish will also allow for increased provision for targeted homework/reading clubs. Some responses argued for a later start and end to the day, but we have to be mindful of children walking home in the dark in the winter. We do not believe that the removal of the afternoon break will have a negative impact on either childhood obesity or mental health. In 2017 only 1% of secondary schools reported that they had an afternoon break and this is the case with at least ten of our local schools.

There were also concerns raised that there will be a negative impact on the traffic on Harehedge Lane and younger/older children mixing on the way home from school. The Academy will work in partnership with Outwoods Primary School and the Central Co-operative Learning Trust to try to resolve the traffic issues which occur at the start and end of the school day. In addition, the students at The de Ferrers Academy will now be starting at 8:55 a.m. to allow for a slightly later end to the day at 3:20 p.m. for four days a week, after the 3:15 p.m. end for the Key Stage 2 students at Outwoods Primary School.

The amended proposal has been approved by Mr McNeilly, Chief Executive of The de Ferrers Trust and will be implemented from September 2019. The revised timings of the Academy day are shown below:

	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday	Thursday
Start time	8:55 a.m.	8:55 a.m.
End time	3:20 p.m.	3:00 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N Holmes

Principal

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS/CARERS

