

Friday 26th May 2026

Changes to the School Day from September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The government released an Education White Paper in March 2022, setting out its vision for education for this decade. The White Paper outlined the government's intention for all schools to have a school week which is at least 32.5 hours in length by September 2023 at the very latest. The Department for Education (DfE) information note that can be found at the link below provides more detail about this plan.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/length-of-the-school-week-minimum-expectation>

The information note sets out the requirements for schools and provides guidance on the delivery of the 32.5 hours per week. Most schools currently operate at 32.5 hours per week and the proposal is designed to bring all schools into line with one another. The DfE requests: when school leaders are considering how to use additional time in their schools, this should be guided by their priorities for improvement and learning outcomes for pupils. They should ensure they are delivering a broad and balanced curriculum within the school week for all their pupils.' Our school week is currently 32 hours and 5 minutes in length which is 25 minutes below the DfE's stated requirement. The school's Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body has given this matter careful consideration and developed a proposal that we feel will meet the DfE's intentions of addressing priorities for improvement and learning outcomes for students.

Proposed School Day from September 2023:

8.45am – 9.15am	Smart Start
9.15am – 10.15am	Lesson 1
10.15am – 11.15am	Lesson 2
11.15am – 11.35am	Break time
11.35am – 12.35pm	Lesson 3
12.35pm – 1.35pm	Lesson 4
1.35pm - 2.15pm	Lunch
2.15pm – 3.15pm	Lesson 5
3.15pm – 4.00pm	Session 6 (Year 11 study support)

The proposal aims to achieve the statutory 32.5 hours per week through increasing our daily Smart Start tutor session to 30 minutes. This session is used to deliver our assembly programme, Safeguarding briefings, Careers guidance, our tutor reading programme and our behavior curriculum in order to support our students to develop in to fully rounded citizens who are prepared for life in 21st Century Britain.

In summary, the school has little choice in moving to a 32.5 hour per week timetable by September 2023, as this will be a requirement for all schools. We want to ensure that the changes we need to make are guided by improving the learning outcomes for all our students. **We are proposing to implement the 32.5 hour per week timetable from September 2023, with the new finishing time for students of 3.15pm each day.** I trust that the above information is helpful in explaining the reason and rationale for the new school day. We will be engaging with our students about these changes over the next few weeks so that they have the opportunity to raise any questions they may have. If you have any questions, comments or require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school by emailing myk.wagstaff@woacademy.co.uk

Uniform Consultation

Today you will receive a text message that includes a link to a questionnaire regarding our uniform. We would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes of your time to complete this.

Many thanks,



Leigh Moore, Principal.



Myk Wagstaff, Vice Principal