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15th June 2017

Dear parents and carers,

The Academy is fast approaching the end of this academic year and our Year 11 students will soon have completed their GCSE exams.

We are making plans for the new academic year and I write in order to let you know in good time of the amendments to the timings of the Academy day that will start when we return in September.

The table below shows that the school day will be extended by 10 minutes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The 10 minutes will be used at the end of each day for what is known as 'DEAR', which is Drop Everything And Read. This is a recognised successful strategy to improve literacy and reading skills in young people and the Academy is excited at developing the opportunity to share this time with our students.

Wednesday is different in that DEAR time will be added on to Tutor time in the morning. This will mean that break and lunchtime are 10 minutes later than on the other days and students will leave at 2.15pm. Staff will then have obligatory training from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. This will help us to ensure the best possible standards are offered to our students.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Tutor Time	8.30am-8.50am
Period 1	8.50am-9.40am
Period 2	9.40am-10.30am
BREAK	10.30am-10.50am
Period 3	10.50am-11.40am
Period 4	11.40am-12.30pm
LUNCH	12.30pm-1.15pm
Period 5	1.15pm-2.05pm
Period 6	2.05pm-3.05pm last 10 minutes DEAR. Students leave at 3.05pm

Wednesday

Tutor Time	8.30am-9.00am Extended tutor time (DEAR)
Period 1	9.00am-9.50am
Period 2	9.50am-10.40am
BREAK	10.40am-11.00am
Period 3	11.00am-11.50am
LUNCH	11.50am-12.40pm
Period 4	12.40pm-1.25pm
Period 5	1.25pm-2.15pm Students leave at 2.15pm
Period 6	Staff training commences at 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Please note that lunchtime on Wednesdays from September 2017 will be earlier.

The Academy is also currently planning the curriculum for the following year, 2018-2019. The table on this page shows that the school day will consist of five 1 hour periods instead of the six 50 minute periods that we currently have. I would like to confirm that whilst we have reduced the number of lessons, each lesson will be 10 minutes longer and the students will receive the same teaching hours. As a result of this change there will be less time lost in moving between rooms and further enhance the learning experience of our students.

2018-19 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Tutor Time	8.30am-8.50am
Period 1	8.50am-9.50am
Period 2	9.50am-10.50am
BREAK	10.50am-11.05am
Period 3	11.05am-12.05am
Period 4	12.05am-1.05pm
LUNCH	1.05pm-1.50pm
Period 5	1.50pm-3.05pm 15 minutes DEAR

2018-19 Wednesday

Tutor Time	8.30am-9.00am - Extended tutor time DEAR
Period 1	9.00am-10.00am
Period 2	10.00am-11.00am
BREAK	11.00am-11.15am
Period 3	11.15am-12.15am
LUNCH	12.15pm-1.00pm
Period 4	1.00pm-2.00pm - students leave at 2.00pm
Period 5	Staff training commences at 2.15pm-4.15pm

The amendments to the timings of the Academy day in 2018-19 for students are that break and lunch are at different times and they will leave at 2.00pm on Wednesdays.

I hope that you will appreciate that our primary motivation is to ensure that our learners receive the best possible teaching and that the time in lessons is used to develop the potential of all our students. We would welcome your feedback on these changes to the Academy day and if you would like to let us know your thoughts on these amendments, please email feedback@omacademy.co.uk by Friday 30th June 2017.

I would also like to take this opportunity to advise you that due to the disruptive nature of the latest craze in fidget spinners, the Academy is having to ban such items. The Academy does appreciate that such toys are of benefit to some students who have a diagnosed Special Educational Need, therefore these students will be provided with a fidget toy by the SEND department and a pass allowing the fidget toy will be issued.

As of Monday 19th June 2017, all fidget spinners and similar items will be banned from the Academy with the exception of those that have been issued by the Academy. Any fidget spinners seen on site will be confiscated and parents will be required to collect them from reception.

I thank you for your continued support.

Miss EJ Cooling
Vice Principal