



Emerson Park Academy

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

ENDEAVOUR
PERSEVERE
ACHIEVE

5th January 2017

Wych Elm Road
Hornchurch
Essex RM11 3AD

Tel: 01708 475285
Fax: 01708 620963

Dear Colleague,

www.emersonparkacademy.org

Head Teacher: Mr S McGuinness

Consultation on the Length of the School Day

The good quality of education provided by Emerson Park Academy has been highlighted in our recent Ofsted report. This is a result of very hard work by both pupils and staff and through the support of parents and carers. We cannot however be complacent about securing continued improvement, and we are always looking for ways in which pupil achievement can be maximised.

One suggestion that has been put forward is to adjust the length of the school day. This would enable dedicated time at the end of the school day for teachers and other staff to collaborate on the development of teaching and learning. This is an approach that has been adopted in a number of other schools to good effect.

I would want to stress at the outset that pupils would continue to receive the same amount of time in lessons as they currently do and lessons would continue to be one hour in length. The proposal is to shorten the lunch period to reduce the overall length of the school day.

There is a view in school that the length of the lunch period is currently too long. The lunch period finishes at 2.30pm although pupils have generally finished using the dining room and catering areas long before this. It is naturally appropriate to allow some time for relaxation over the lunch period. However, there still remains scope to reduce the length of lunchtime.

The school has a long history of extra-curricular activities, both at lunchtime and in the evening, and I would not wish to lessen these opportunities for our young people in any way. Indeed, I would want to increase and widen access to such opportunities if possible.

Inevitably, the main emphasis of our discussions in school has been around the educational pros and cons of the proposal but, as you would expect, I am also extremely conscious of the social and family implications. One of these would be the effects on our local primary schools and those families who also have to collect children from them.

Naturally, the Governors would like to know what parents think of the proposal before they consider the matter and make a decision, hence this consultation letter. I have attached an outline of the proposed new timings of the school day and a copy can also be accessed on the school website.

I have tried to set out fairly the educational possibilities that might be realised from a change in the timing of the day. However, these may be outweighed by the social implications of the change which the Governors need to be aware of through a response from you.

If you would like to let them know your views, please e-mail them to info@emersonparkacademy.org. The period of consultation will last until Friday 27th January 2017 and if the consensus of opinion is to proceed with this proposal, I would envisage moving to the new timings from September 2017. There will be a meeting held in school on Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 3.45pm to answer any further questions.

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Scott McGuinness
Headteacher

