



Emerson Park Academy

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

ENDEAVOUR
PERSEVERE
ACHIEVE

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Head Teacher: Mr S McGuinness

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am writing to keep you up to date with some of the latest developments here at Emerson Park Academy.

A number of changes have already taken place and a few more will be happening over the next few months:

Year Groups from May 2017

As you may well know we have been assessing the effectiveness of the vertical tutoring at Emerson Park Academy.

We have now decided to change the vertical tutoring to a year group system.

I realise there are key benefits of peer support/role models etc. that can be gained from such practice. There are, however, major gains from having pupils in the same year group during tutor time (revision classes can run, options process can be discussed with the whole group etc.).

The year group system also ensures tutors can supervise their pupils at all times when assemblies are taking place and hear the key messages of such gatherings and ensure initiatives are implemented (currently the house assemblies do not allow for this).

I am also keen to keep the benefits of the vertical system and look at peer mentoring via the house system (the year groups will not be instead of the house system, they will run in conjunction). Prefects will be used to support younger pupils and act as role models during pastoral time in school.

The change is not a decision I have taken lightly, but it is an initiative I feel will reap long term benefits.

I hope this way forward will allow us to develop the new system whilst maintaining some of the benefits of the old structure.



Timing of the school day

After a lengthy period of consultation, a meeting in early February 2017, and discussions with the Governing Body the decision has been taken to slightly alter the school day from September 2017.

The start of the day and periods 1 to 4 will be exactly the same. The only changes will be that lunch will be 15 minutes shorter and the school day will then finish at 3.15pm.

This will 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 like to stress at the outset that pupils will continue to receive the same amount of time in lessons as they currently do and lessons will continue to be one hour in length.

The school has a long history of extra-curricular activities, both at lunchtime and in the evening, and I want to increase these opportunities where possible.

MAT discussions

As you will know there have been ongoing discussions around the possibility of joining The Brentwood Academies Trust.

After much consideration it has been decided that, despite a lot of potential, this would not be the right time for Emerson Park Academy to join this partnership.

Should there be any movement towards joining a Multi Academy Trust in the near future all stakeholders will be kept up to date.

Uniform

We are continuing our push to improve the school uniform and create a very 'business-like' look for our pupils. There will be some changes to the uniform for our new pupils joining in September 2017 and a few minor changes for our existing pupils.

The main change will be the school ties for current Years 7, 8 and 9. These pupils will be issued with a navy tie (free of charge) to replace the current ties. The house identity will remain via a subtle stripe on each tie in the respective house colours.

Further information regarding uniform will be issued in due course.

With all previous changes and initiatives I have had huge support from parents and carers and I hope, with these new ideas, this will remain constant.

Yours sincerely,



Scott McGuinness
Head Teacher