



Friday 21st July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As I am sure you are aware, we have invited you to share your views about the length of the secondary Academy day. We kept the survey open an additional weekend to ensure that as many of you as possible were able to take part.

We can now confirm that:

65% of those who responded stated that they would like their child/children to be free to leave the Academy earlier than 5.00pm. 77% stated a preference for a consistent end of day all week. 56% preferred a formal end of 3.45pm.

Therefore, from September we will pilot the following:

The Academy will remain open, with clubs, societies and supervised homework until 5.00pm as at present on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Formal lessons will stop at 3.45pm so children who want to leave at 3.45pm will not miss lessons. By changing the times of breaks and lunches we are able to do this without reducing the total teaching time.

However, any family who would like their child to leave at 3.45pm will be able to permit this on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

For the time being the day will continue to end at 2.30pm on Wednesdays as the bus company has yet to agree to change its service. We hope to be able to change this later in the year but we will let you know as soon as we do.

We would be very grateful if you could please indicate your preference on the attached consent form **or** via an online form at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W6NQC8S>. A link to the online consent form has also been sent via text to ease completion. **We need confirmation of your preference by Friday 28th July 2017.** The secondary Reception is open throughout the summer holidays from 8.30am – 3.30pm. There will be an assumption that if the consent form is not received, your child will remain at the Academy until 5pm.

I will be writing to you again in due course with information on buses.

Homework

It was clear from your comments that homework remains an issue of concern. Please be assured, therefore, that the homework policy will not be changing and homework will continue to be optional. Children in school until 5.00pm will be able to complete homework at school under supervision. If children choose a club or society then, as now, there is the option to complete homework outside of these hours, if they wish.

ID Cards and Planners

A school planner will not be issued from September. In its place we are issuing a new ID card for each child containing basic school information. This card will identify whether children have permission to leave site at 3.45pm. Without the correct colour ID card the student will have to stay on site until 5pm. As we do with the planner now, we will provide the first ID card free of any charge.

Meetings

Any families who would like to better understand these changes will be welcome to meet with Mr Milliken and the team in the first week of term. More details on these briefings will be shared in due course.

Start of term- change to published dates

To enable a beneficial induction to the new academic year we ask that children return to school as follows, a change from previously published plans:

- Tuesday 5th September - **Year 8 only**
- Wednesday 6th September - **Year 7, 8 and 11 only**
- Thursday 7th September - **All year groups**

If this causes inconvenience or you do not consent to this, please advise us via email at the address provided below.

To confirm:

- all families who wish to remain in school in clubs societies and supervised homework until 5.00pm may do so**
- **those who wish to leave at 3.45pm may do so permitted the consent is received by 28th July**
- **the Academy homework approach is not changing**

Any questions or concerns you may have should be addressed to ceoffice@folkestoneacademy.com

Yours faithfully



Andrew Milliken
Head of School



Preference for the end of the school day

Name of Student: _____

House: _____

Year group (in September 2017): _____

I would like my child to: (**please delete as appropriate*)

*leave school at 3.45pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

or

*stay at school until 5pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in order to access clubs, societies and supervised homework.

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____

Name of Parent/Carer: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Please complete this consent form and return to the secondary Academy Reception or complete the online form by Friday 28th July.