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Headteacher: T.Body BA (Hons), MA

[Sent via ParentMail]

25 April 2024

Re: Proposal to change the length of the school day

Dear parents / carers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

During the course of this past year, the Senior Leadership Team has been discussing the current school day. Historically, the reason we chose to start the day at 8:15am was due to the congestion of traffic in the Watford area.

However, these days, a number of teachers have childcare arrangement difficulties, supply teachers are not able to get in at the required start times, and students are having issues getting to school on time when travelling by bus. Because of this, we are proposing to change the start and end of the school day.

The changes we are recommending would start school at 8:35am and finish at 3:05pm (rather than our current start time of 8:15 am and finish of 2:50pm). Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from 1st September 2024.

I believe that these changes will be beneficial to the school community and will have a positive effect on your child's education, as we are conscious that the current start time makes it very difficult for some students to get to school on time and, therefore, the later start time will ensure that they can get to school on time and not miss out on vital messages during form time.

The information in this letter has also been sent to the Local Authority and the School Bus Company. We will make sure to work together so that there is minimal disruption.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and in terms of your child's education. For this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your response to Mrs Neal at kd@westfield.academy, if you have any comments regarding this proposed change.

The consultation period for parents will open on Thursday, 25th April 2024 and will close on Friday, 26th May 2024.

We will release the results of the consultation by Friday, 7th June 2024 and, unless there are any objections raised from either the Local Authority or the Bus Company, we will be making these changes with effect from the next 2024 / 25 school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Body
Headteacher