



[Sent via ParentMail]

5 June 2024

Dear parents / carers,

Re: Change to timing for the school day

I am writing to inform you of the results of the consultation process that we had written to you about in April.

We are very grateful to everyone who gave feedback regarding the proposed changes. The responses that we received were mixed in terms of those in favour of the changes, and those who had concerns.

Some of the concerns that had been raised regarding changing the school day were that the later start time would make it difficult to drop other children at primary school, or an increase in the traffic with students not having anywhere to go in the mornings.

We have taken on board these concerns, and we will be running a breakfast club where parents can sign their children up to attend these sessions. This breakfast club will be open from 8am and students will be issued a pass for them to be able to come into school early to attend this club. This will mean that for parents who have raised concerns with being able to drop their child off before having to go to work, or needing to drop another child off to a primary school, they will have a facility to have their child in school and supervised from 8am.

The breakfast club will have capacity for 400 students to attend and will be on a first come, first served basis. Further details surrounding the breakfast club will be sent out to parents separately. Another concern raised was whether the Red Eagle bus times would change in accordance to the new school changes. We have written to the Red Eagle bus company and they have not raised any objections to the change to the school day and can accommodate these changes, both in the mornings and at the end of the day.

Concerns as to the later finish time have also been raised, where some parents are worried that they would not be able to pick up their children from Westfield and then their other children from primary schools. With regards to this, we will have the following after-school facilities in place which we hope would alleviate these issues. Students can make use of the following after-school provisions, which would mean that parents could pick up their children from the primary schools and then come and collect their child from Westfield; students can go to the Library or they can attend after-school PE clubs (a timetable of these clubs will be released at the start of the year). This will allow for parents to pick up their younger children and then come and collect their children from Westfield afterwards.

Concerns regarding traffic for the later finish time are ones that we are aware of and have carefully considered when we have looked at making the changes to the day. Whilst we appreciate that this could be an issue, we would encourage parents to use the Morrisons entrance for both drop-offs and collections as this is a much quieter pick up point and students are able to safely walk down the path at the back of the school to meet parents.

Positive feedback for these changes included the fact that students punctuality would improve as they are currently having issues with the buses and the later start time would mean that parents are



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Headteacher: T.Body BA (Hons), MA

confident their children would make the new school start time; parents were pleased with the later start as this would mean that their child could now start taking a bus rather than having to be dropped off and some parents expressed that this would allow a smoother start to the school day for their child as they would not be as rushed in the mornings.

We have taken into account all of the feedback that we have received from parents and in order for us to go ahead with the changes to the school day, we have put provisions in place to help alleviate the concerns that have been raised and we have also taken into account the positive feedback we have received regarding these changes.

With all of this in mind, based on the outcome of the consultation, we have made the decision that from 1st September 2024, Westfield Academy will be changing the school day timings. The new school day will be from 8.35-3.05pm, with the lesson lengths remaining at 1 hour long, and students still having 5 lessons a day.

We are very grateful for your support with these changes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Body
Headteacher