

May 2024

Thank you to all families who have shared valuable feedback as part of our consultation process around changes to the school day. This letter is to give clarity in response to commonly asked questions and follow up on the general feedback received. Whilst there have been some changes to the wraparound care plans following feedback, the new timings, as set out on the original letter will remain. They are:

Monday – Thursday:

- 8.20am – 3.15pm (families may collect from 3.05pm)
- A range of wraparound care provided on and off site is available before and after the school day

Friday:

- 8.20am – 2.15pm (families may collect from 2.05pm)
- A range of wraparound care provided on and off site is available before and after the school day

Please see feedback based on the main three strands below.

Wraparound care

Early Starters club will now run at a reduced cost of £1 for the session, 7.45am-8.20am, rather than the £1.50 originally stated in the letter. Due to there being no planned changes to the morning timings, we are assuming the Early Starters club numbers will remain stable. We kindly ask only families who have no other option other than to use this club request a place, as the current club numbers are nearing capacity on the staffing ratios we can offer. Should numbers significantly increase we may need to move to an external provider which would increase costs. Access to a free breakfast will still always be available in classrooms for all students from 8.20am until 8.30am.

In order to support working families, we have carefully considered the wraparound care offer and have registered as a childcare provider. This means from September 2024, families will be able to use Tax-Free Childcare (ages 0-11), Tax Credits (ages 0-15) or Universal Credit (ages 0-16) to help pay for before and after school care run by DMP staff. This scheme can be used in conjunction with any free hours of childcare families may already be using for children aged 2-4.

See additional information outlined in our separate letter containing further details about wraparound care.

Curriculum Time

From September, corrections will take place during the academy day rather than impacting on paid afterschool provision or planned wraparound care. The evidence from the UK and abroad suggests the sanction must be immediate (a detention three days later doesn't work with children) and we have seen an increase in the number of families asking to defer corrections to more convenient times. If any of the Learning Habits are not met, a same-day correction will be issued from Year 3 upwards. We will still contact you by text and let you know your child has a 30-minute correction (detention). This will take place during lunch or breaks. The student will still be given the opportunity to reflect on their mistake and take the necessary next steps to improve for the following session.

The length of the academy week will remain longer than the DFE required hours. None of the core National Curriculum subjects and additional music provision will be affected by the changes to the school day timings.



- English, Maths, Science, IT, PSHE and Humanities will still be taught by DMP teaching staff and DT, Art, PE, Spanish and Music will still be taught by subject specialists
- English and maths will still be allocated a daily 1 hour session
- Foundation subjects lessons will still range from 40 to 55mins

Monday to Thursday there is a 30 minute reduction in the school day. This will only affect 15 minutes of learning time across the afternoon as staff breaks and outside play for students over lunchtime will be returning to 30 minutes. This will take place before or after the allocated 30 minutes of family dining (for students). For the remaining 15 minutes, lesson timings have been adjusted for some foundation subjects (by 5 minutes each) across the academy day to accommodate our full curriculum offer.

On Fridays the reduction of an additional hour will affect KS2 Stretch projects and EYFS/ KS1's Big Sing assembly/story time. Stretch project sessions will no longer take place on a weekly basis, instead they will take place in the form of Stretch drop-down sessions, allowing for students to become immersed in research, planning and preparation for their home projects. Schemes of work are typically planned in six-week sequences which allows flexibility for drop-down sessions in DT, Dance, performances and now Stretch. The Big Sing assemblies will now happen on alternate weeks (in the KS2 slot) for the whole school rather than weekly.

Dismissal window

Dismissal for DMP/DTA students is a relatively unusual situation as we act like a 'through school' in some aspects but two different schools in others. A lot of thought has gone into the dismissal timings and the final ten minutes of the school day. We currently have a highly effective 'soft start' between 8.20 and 8.30 (where retrieval practice/ quizzing takes place alongside student pastoral check-ins take) this will now be replicated at the end of the school day between 3.05 and 3.15 so there is a 'soft end' to the day with time to address pastoral needs.

Thank you, once again, for all your feedback and support throughout this process.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Steele
Principal

Mrs Morrissey
Head of School

