

ALEC REED ACADEMY

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Consultation with parents, pupils and staff to restructure the school day in the Secondary Phase in 2018-19

Dear Parents and Carers of Secondary Phase Pupils

We would appreciate your views and opinions relating to the structure and length of the school day for the Secondary Phase of the Academy.

The Governing Body and Leadership Teams have been reviewing the school day for several reasons. The current school timetable involves a later finish for pupils in Years 7-13 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons (3.50pm finish) than on Monday and Friday (3pm finish).

The longer school days during the middle of the week have made it difficult to provide study and intervention sessions or enrichment programmes and clubs for pupils in Sports and the Arts. This is especially true in the dark winter months when many pupils have quite long homeward journeys at the end of the day. It can be very difficult for pupils to stay for any after-school activities as these cannot begin until after 4pm.

All other schools in Ealing have a shorter school day than the Academy.

In most schools, the school day remains the same across the week on Monday-Friday. For this reason, sporting fixtures in Ealing start shortly after 3pm and it has therefore not been possible for Alec Reed pupils to be involved in all of the opportunities that are available.

There has also been a review of the school year and it proposed that the number of teaching days should be increased (please see details under 'Proposal' below).

The rational for reviewing the school day includes:

- Creating opportunities within the school day for enrichment and clubs
- Providing after-school 'catch-up' intervention sessions for pupils who fall behind in their studies and/ or require additional support
- Bringing the Alec Reed Academy in line with other Ealing Schools and beyond
- Creating a better work/study-life balance for pupils and staff
- Standardising the length of the school day to provide 6 lessons per day on all five days of the week, Monday to Friday
- Year 11 pupils could have a longer day on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday. This would enable additional subjects to be taught and for intervention sessions to be held on a regular basis throughout the year

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Proposal:

1. It is proposed that the Academy will reduce the timetable for all pupils in Years 7-13 from seven 50 minutes lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to six 50-minute lessons. There are currently 6 lessons on Monday and Friday. This proposal would therefore ensure that the timetable for all five days of the week followed the same format. There would be three fewer hours in the timetable each week.
2. There are currently 184 taught days each year at the Academy and 7 Professional Development Days. The school year would be extended for all pupils to 188 taught days. There would be 5 additional Professional Development Days for staff.
3. The period between 3pm and 3.50pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday would be allocated for 'catch-up' and the provision of enrichment/ clubs
4. Year 11 pupils could be required to stay until 3.50pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday for additional lessons/ intervention relating to their end of year examinations

We would be grateful if you would complete the **Survey Monkey Questionnaire by clicking on the link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RVDY7ZT>** that asks for your views and opinion regarding the above proposal. There is also space in the questionnaire for you to provide any further information or details that you may wish to add.

In addition to the questionnaire, two **Open Consultation Meetings for Parents** will be held at the Academy. The first will be held on **Tuesday 12th June at 6pm**. The second meeting will be held on **the morning of Friday 15th June at 9am**. These meetings will provide an opportunity for parents to ask any further questions relating to the consultation. All views and opinions expressed by parents will be included in the consultation and fully considered before any decision is made to restructure the school day.

The survey will be open until Tuesday 5th June and the full consultation process will close on 25th June.

Thank you for all you support throughout the year. I look forward to receiving your responses to the questionnaire and meeting parents at the Open Meetings on 12th and 15th June.

With kind regards

Gary Lobbett
Principal and CEO