



June 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation on proposal to shorten Thursday school day for 2019/2020

Key to the success of Warlingham School over recent years has been our willingness to reflect on our practice and build on what we do well, whilst always looking for ways to improve. Recently, we have been reviewing the structure of the working day and how to best organise the learning and workload of our students and staff. As you may be aware, there are many challenges presently facing schools, not least how we find and keep high quality teachers, how we manage our workload and the demands that we place on our students so that we can promote everyone's wellbeing. We also need to consider how we continue to deliver a broad and enriching curriculum, despite increasing pressures on the funding.

We are currently consulting with staff on a proposal to slightly reduce the amount of time that students are required to be in school on Thursdays and we would appreciate your thoughts and contributions to this consultation.

Our current proposal is that from September 2019 the Thursday school day would be re-organised as follows:

- Key Stage 3 and 4 students would finish at 2.05 pm rather than 3.10pm.
- Key Stage 5 students would remain on site to undertake their Lesson 10 weekly assessment.
- Lunch will begin earlier after period 3 rather than at the end of period 4 and there will be one lesson after lunch.

The school will continue to offer the current wide range of extra-curricular activities through a combination of lunchtime and after school sessions and to run sports clubs after school in the same manner as at present.

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For any students who would need to remain on site until they can get a bus, or be collected, we will make the Learning Resource Centre available, with staff on hand to supervise and assist with work where needed. The LRC will continue to be accessible to students before school, at lunchtime and after school as it is every day.

These are the main advantages that arise from this change:

- More time on Thursday afternoons for teachers and teams of support staff to collaborate on enhancing the high quality educational offer that the school provides.
- Parents' evenings would move to Thursdays so giving teachers time to prepare thoroughly for the sessions so that we can give you and our students greater levels of support and guidance.
- A working arrangement that will assist with recruiting and retaining high calibre staff, which in turn safeguards our ability to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Professional development training can commence and end earlier on a Thursday, to maximise what staff gain from training, encourage an improved work life balance for staff leading to a positive impact on the outstanding learning we offer.

This proposal is currently under consideration by staff and will be presented to both the student council in meetings and the general student body in assemblies after half term.

We are now inviting you to join the consultation. Please send any questions or comments to schoolday@warlinghamschool.co.uk by 17 June 2019.

We will be holding a consultation opportunity for parents on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 6pm in the main hall to answer any queries and further explain the rationale behind these suggested changes.

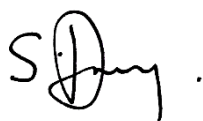
The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to parents by the end of June to give everyone ample time to prepare for the new term in September 2019.

Thank you for your engagement in this consultation. We look forward to hearing your views.

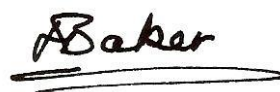
Yours sincerely



Mr P Kinder
Joint Head of School



Mr S Day
Joint Head of School



Mrs J Baker
Chair of Governors