



4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing following our recent consultation on the proposed changes to the school day from September 2018 to outline the nature of the responses we received and confirm the subsequent decision made by the governing body.

### **Consultation Responses**

Responses from parents – The response rate to the consultation was extremely low with only 6 formal responses made. All of these responses were against the proposals with the main objections being the loss of some time for Performing Arts students in CAPA Juniors and the impact on travelling for some students who live a distance from the academy. Additionally, twelve parents attended the consultation meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May and the questions and concerns raised mirrored the issues above.

Responses from staff – Staff responses were extremely positive and in support of the changes. There were some questions for clarification from some staff about any possible changes in conditions or working hours.

Responses from students – Response rates were high with 530 responses collected following assemblies to outline the proposals. 406 students were positive about the changes, 76 undecided and 48 were against the changes.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May the Governing Body met to consider the proposals again, taking into account the consultation responses and to make a decision whether or not to proceed with the changes. Given that the proportion of responses against the changes was minimal when the whole student body was considered and given that the rationale to support the development of our academy will be met by the changes, a decision was made in favour. **Therefore it has been decided to proceed with the new timings for the school day from September 2018 and this letter confirms formal notice of the changes. The timings can be seen in the table on the next page.**

	Cathedral Main Pathway Students Years 7-10	CAPA Juniors Students Years 7-10	Cathedral and CAPA Juniors Year 11 students
Start Time	8.30am	8.30am	8.30m
Finish time	2.40pm	4.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 2.40pm on Mondays and Fridays  <u>Please note</u> - We will offer still offer Monday and Friday enrichment sessions until 4.pm at a cost as we have done in 2017-18.	2.40pm will be the end of Period 5 although year 11 students will be required to complete period 6 until 3.40pm on most days.  These sessions are based on student needs in their final year before crucial examinations. Information about the exact sessions is communicated in-year.

We understand that some parents and students are not in support of this and we are committed to trying to resolve any of the concerns people have. Therefore we ask that if this does create any significant problems for you and your child with travel arrangements, that you contact us separately (by e-mailing my PA Danielle Bramald on [dbramald@cathedralacademy.co.uk](mailto:dbramald@cathedralacademy.co.uk)) so that we can make special consideration where necessary.

Also, in terms of the lost Performing Arts time for the CAPA Juniors pathway, we would like to re-iterate our commitment to ensuring that the experience remains very much the same as it has been this year and that the only lesson time lost will be 10 minutes on 3 days per week. This allows us to ensure all lessons across the academy are just one hour long for consistency. The additional shows, trips and visits, specialist teaching staff and additional learning time in performing arts subjects will remain a unique aspect of our CAPA Junior pathway.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Marsh  
Principal