

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Day Consultation - Update

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our consultation regarding the introduction of a formal extended curriculum.

We have taken the time to carefully read all your comments and reflect on your feedback before making our decision. While we are pleased that the majority of the feedback received was supportive, we have listened and considered the concerns that have been raised. We recognise that some areas of our thinking needed further consideration, particularly in light of the recent Covid-19 restrictions.

Based on this, we have chosen to amend our plans. I am pleased to detail the revised plans below and have included our responses to some of the main concerns that were raised at the end of this letter.

We have decided to proceed with modifying the school day to include a sixth session on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, however the focus of these sessions will be to provide students with additional, focused recovery sessions in core academic subjects. These compulsory sessions will help students to catch up as quickly as possible following the restrictions to learning during the Covid-19 lockdown.

We will also be offering dedicated co-curricular sessions for the youngest students on Mondays and Fridays between 3pm and 4pm to support their transition to secondary school. We also intend to broaden this offer to other year groups as soon as we can, in line with our original plans.

The most significant changes to our original plans are:

- The additional sixth session on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be focused on delivering an academic recovery curriculum for all students to provide additional lessons in response to missed time in school due to the Covid-19 restrictions. This will be in place during the next school year.
- Attendance at the additional sessions will now be compulsory for all year groups, except for Post-16 students
 - Year 7 & 8 – literacy/numeracy and supported study delivered by teaching staff
 - Year 9, 10 & 11 – Additional English, Maths and Science
 - Year 12 – not required to stay
- The official school day will end at 3.00pm on a Monday and Friday, and at 4.00pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

- There will be an optional co-curricular offer for Year 7 students on a Monday and Friday until 4.00pm. These sessions will support the well-being and development of our youngest learners and ensure their transition to secondary school, which has been disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions, is positive, supportive, and well-balanced.
- We intend to offer further co-curricular opportunities for other year groups as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. This will be reviewed by the school on a termly basis.
- A slightly earlier start to the school day to allow for a longer morning break time.

These revised plans will come into effect from the 1st September. The first two weeks of term in August will continue under our existing timetable.

We remain committed to offering a structured extended curriculum for all students and will review this during the next school year and in good time for the Year 7 admissions process.

School Day – 1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021

| Timetable | Start | Finish |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Tutor Curriculum/Assembly (25 minutes) | 08:45 | 09:10 |
| Session 1 (including 20 minutes break) | 09:10 | 10:30 |
| Session 2 | 10:30 | 11:30 |
| Session 3 (including 30-minute lunch) | 11:30 | 13:00 |
| Session 4 | 13:00 | 14:00 |
| Session 5 | 14:00 | 15:00 |
| Session 6 (Tuesday-Thursday) | 15:00 | 16:00 |
| Monday & Friday – Year 7 co-curricular | | |

I hope that you will see that we have listened carefully to your comments before we have finalised these plans.

If you have any further comments about these revised plans, we would be happy to meet with you. Please contact the PA to the Principal, Mrs Smith (slsmith@corbytechnicalschool.org), to arrange a suitable time when we return in August.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Reynolds
Principal

Consultation responses - Key Considerations

Impact of Covid-19

We have listened to your concerns and agree that the additional sessions should provide a clear focus on helping students to recover from the impact of Covid-19 restrictions. This will be in place during the next year, by which time we expect all students will have recovered.

Shorter lessons and school day

We have carefully considered your concerns about the shorter lesson times. These plans will mean that our individual session times will continue to reduce to 60 minutes. I wanted to explain why we have taken this decision, and why we are confident it will enhance the education for our students.

In recent years there have been significant changes to the way students are assessed as they complete their formal qualifications. This includes having a stronger focus on end of course examinations rather than coursework and developing a broader understanding of more subjects.

While longer lessons under the old system allowed for students to have extended support to complete their coursework, there is growing evidence that suggests shorter, more focused and engaged lessons helps students to progress and improve outcomes under this new system. Our primary aim is to ensure our students continue to receive the best possible outcomes.

Under these revised plans our students will continue to receive more than the recommended supported study time in all subjects, and the time in school will only be very slightly shorter than our existing times.

Whilst most schools offer the typical 25 hours of education each week, the revised plans will offer a minimum of 28 hours.

While we have chosen not to offer the formal extended curriculum next year, there is also strong evidence that suggests a comprehensive extra-curricular programme has a positive effect on students' attitudes towards school, improving their engagement in lessons and having a positive impact on their overall outcomes. It also helps them to develop personal and social skills to thrive after they leave school.

While all schools are able to make their own decisions, all schools across Brooke Weston Trust annually review their curriculum offer to ensure they are offering the best opportunities for their students.

Compulsory rather than optional sessions

Many of you felt that the sessions should be compulsory to ensure students attended the additional sessions. For the forthcoming year we have decided to make the recovery sessions compulsory for all, except for students in Year 12.