



THE WELLS ACADEMY

Be Kind. Work Hard. Achieve Greatness

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1st April 2021

Consultation regarding proposed changes to the school day

Dear Parent/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to wish you well and thank you for your ongoing support over this challenging period. We are all extremely proud of our community for working together to continue to grow something special at The Wells Academy.

I am writing to you to begin a consultation process and hear your thoughts/views on the changes we are proposing to make to the Academy day for the 2021/22 Academic year. We would welcome your feedback on these proposals to allow us to ensure that our plans best support our pupils to go on to 'Achieve Greatness'. The consultation will run until Friday 14th May with a final decision and plan being released on Friday 28th May. The proposed changes would be implemented upon our return in September 2021.

The summary of the changes are as follows:

- The Academy will move from 5 x 1 hour lessons a day to 6 x 55 minute lessons a day, with afternoon tutor time removed. **This will not change the length of the Academy day.**
- A 'Period 7' session will be introduced for **all** Year 11 students, Tuesday – Thursday, which will extend their Academy day to 4:30pm on these days. **This session will be a formal part of the school day that all year 11 students will be expected to attend as per normal attendance rules.**

For students in Years 7 – 10 the length of the Academy day will not be changing, but the proposal is that for Year 11 their day will be extended on Tuesday – Thursday by 70 minutes. The 2:00pm finish on a Monday will continue to be in place for all students.

Rationale for changes to the number of lessons

At present the Academy has two tutor time slots in the day which total 1 hour a day for pastoral support, welfare and RSE education. The Academy has utilised this time well this year to support its transformation of standards and behaviour, however the Academy now believes that two sessions a day are no longer required and would be better focused on students learning in key curriculum areas.

The proposed change will mean the Academy moves from delivering 25 periods a week to 29 periods, with a dedicated tutor time each morning.

By removing the afternoon tutor time each day, the Academy will be able to provide additional learning time for all students. The additional learning time will allow the Academy to increase the curriculum time for core subjects (Maths & English), whilst also ensuring it can keep a rich and diverse curriculum offer with regards to the arts and humanities. The table overleaf outlines how the proposed changes impact on the curriculum hours.



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

GREATNESS



Year 7 & 8

Subject	Current	Proposed
English	4	5
Maths	4	5
Science	3	3
IT	0	1
Drama	0	1
Dance	1	1
Art	1	1
Technology	1	1
PE	2	2
Learning for life	0	1
French	2	2
History	2	2
Geography	2	2
RE	1	1
PSHE	1	1
Practise	1	0
Total	25	29

Year 9

Subject	Current	Proposed
English	4	5
Maths	4	6
Science	5	5
Dance	1	1
Art	1	1
Technology	1	1
PE	2	2
French	2	2
History	2	2
Geography	2	2
RE	1	1
PSHE	1	1
Total	25	29

Year 10

Subject	Current	Proposed
English	4	5
Maths	4	6
Science	5	6
Option 1	3	3
Option 2	3	3
Option 3	3	3
PE	2	2
PSHE	1	1
Total	25	29

Year 11

Subject	Current	Proposed
English	5	6
Maths	5	6
Science	5	5
Option 1	3	3
Option 2	3	3
Option 3	3	3
PE	2	2
PSHE	1	1
Total	25	29

The Academy believes the benefits for this change are as follows:

- Extra learning time for Maths & English, leading to improved outcomes in these subjects and those across the curriculum that rely heavily on these core skills.
- Provide pacier lessons which will support with student concentration and engagement.
- The ability to keep a broad and diverse curriculum including the creative and performing arts, whilst ensuring students gain extra lessons in core subjects.
- To ensure PSHE, careers advice and personal development sessions can be maximised and delivered as part of the core curriculum

The Academy acknowledges that these changes may also lead to:

- Some loss of learning time for subjects which have kept the same number of lessons
- Students feeling that the day is longer due to having more periods but the same amount of time in school learning.



Rationale for additional Period 7 lesson for Year 11 students

The Academy is proposing that Year 11 students in 2021/22 have an additional targeted intervention lesson on Tuesday – Thursday. **This session will be a formal part of the school day that all year 11 students will be expected to attend as per normal attendance rules.**

The session will be focused on improving students GCSE performance in subjects identified as needing further academic support. The sessions will provide targeted and specialist support in students' identified areas for improvement. This session will be delivered through a variety of methods including:

- 1:1 or small group tuition (both in person and online)
- Whole class intervention lessons
- Seminar/Masterclass sessions with a lead teacher
- Enrichment/Careers support session

Sessions will be delivered by a combination of Academy staff and specialist tutors/teachers, who will be employed to deliver these targeted sessions. Students will be placed into groups based on their assessment data to ensure that they can achieve the best possible outcomes and secure their next steps in education, training or employment.

The Academy believes the benefits for this change are as follows:

- A month worth of extra learning which will significantly improve their GCSE outcomes
- Ensure that students target the areas of their curriculum which requires the most support and improvement
- Remove the need for intensive periods of intervention at key points in the year.

The Academy acknowledges that these changes may also lead to:

- The inability for students to be able to engage in some after school extracurricular activities.
- Lengthen the Academy day for year 11's three days a week.

Gained learning time

Both proposed changes allow the Academy to maximise learning time for students and ensure that they have the best possible chance of obtaining fantastic GCSE outcomes to allow them to progress to their next steps. The table below outlines how much additional learning time the changes will make for each cohort over their time at the Academy.

Year group	Gained learning time
6	404 hour ≈ 4 months
7	328 hours ≈ 1 full term
8	252 hours ≈ 10 weeks
9	176 hours ≈ 1 half term
10	100 hours ≈ 4 weeks



How to provide feedback

The Academy would like to hear feedback on these proposals from students, staff, parents, carers and community members. To do so please complete the following form
(https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WnSRoNi3ek2yphNZBT1FELDISyFjL49KIDs_KVbzZp1URTdGV1BJN004TkVYNjBNUDNQSTI2WTdVWV4u)

Alternatively, please contact Natalie Jones on njones@thewellsacademy.org expressing your feedback.

I would like to thank you all once again for your ongoing support and I hope you all enjoy a fantastic Easter break.

Kind regards,



Mr Shepherd
Proud to be Principal of The Wells Academy

