

23 June 2010



Dear Parent/Carer

Proposed Minor changes to the School Day

The Radcliffe School IEB is proposing to make a minor change to the school day from September 2010, which we believe will extend the range of learning opportunities available to all students by enabling the delivery of an extensive range of voluntary activities.

The proposal is that the school curriculum would formally close at 2pm on Wednesdays.

Replacing the current period five on Wednesday's will be a range of organised activities designed to extend and challenge our students beyond the formal curriculum. Whilst the activities will be **compulsory for all Year 7 and Year 8 students**, they will be staged for Years 9, 10 and 11. The programme for Years 9, 10 and 11 will be available for at least three of the six half term blocks and we expect 100% attendance at these sessions. The remaining three half term blocks will be completed with course work, exam preparation, home study and formal study leave

The statutory required learning hours will continue to be met within these arrangements.

We will closely track this to ensure that the scheme delivers the desired outcomes for our students and make the best possible use of the time available. Registers will be taken so that the school can account for the whereabouts of all participating students.

Many of the voluntary activities will continue well beyond 3pm, allowing for the types of extended experiences we continually find difficult to deliver within the traditional school day. We believe that the activities will in particular provide the opportunity for our students to develop and demonstrate leadership qualities, and receive recognition for progress in this vital area of personal development. The activities we have selected will also help our students to become fully involved in our local community and become positive role models for others. Many of the activities will be led by volunteers, coaches and subject experts, fully qualified to deliver their specific sessions and having the appropriate CRB checks in place.

In summary, we believe the specific benefits will be:

For students:

- Opportunities for students to engage in a broad range of activities to improve the school and wider community through Sports Leadership Model extended.
- Opportunities to create memorable learning activities beyond the classroom, through coordinated programme of visits and trips.
- Opportunities for Student Voice Committees based around House.
- Opportunities for developed extra curricular programme – all subject areas.
- Opportunities for research and study facilities.
- Opportunities for mentoring/student study support sessions.
- Opportunities for presentations to groups of students from employers / Health Education / Careers.



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Headteacher: John O'Donnell





We also believe that the benefits will extend beyond our students to parents and staff, causing less disruption to the traditional curriculum by enabling academic tutorials to be established without the use of additional day's closure and enable extended consultation time for parents and staff where necessary.

Specific Benefits for Parents / Community

- Opportunities for improved face to face communication.
- Consistent calendar – standard Weds finish time to include all Academic Tutorials.
- Opportunities for consistent community involvement programme.

Specific Benefits for Teachers

- Regular team planning, sharing good practice / moderation of students.
- Opportunities for targeted intervention work – groups of students / individual / parents.
- Opportunities to develop partnerships with other students / institutions.

The staff will be discussing the various options with students in the next few weeks and will be asking them to make their choices for September.

I would be happy to provide further information if this would be of interest to you, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further observations or suggestions.

Yours sincerely

Mr J O'Donnell
Headteacher



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