

East Birmingham Network Academy

13th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Proposal to change the start and finish times of the school day

I am writing to inform you of proposed changes to the school day at EBN Academy 2, Castle Vale, from January 2024. Following trials at the end of last term and a number of issues for students arriving at school for 8.30am due to public transport issues we are proposing a slight change in the start and end times of the school day. Currently our school day starts at 8.30am Monday- Friday and finishes at 2.30pm Monday to Thursday and 12.30pm on Friday.

Our proposal is to change the start time to 8.45am and the finish time to 2.45pm from Monday to Thursday, with Friday's finish time remaining at 12.30pm (Year 9 will continue to finish at 12.30pm on Thursdays also). The school week will therefore run as follows:

Monday – 8.45am – 2.45pm

Tuesday – 8.45am – 2.45pm

Wednesday - 8.45am-2.45pm

Thursday – 8.45am – 2.45pm (Year 10 and 11)/8.45am-12.30pm (Year 9)

Friday – 8.45am – 12.30pm (all Year Groups)

The new timings of the school day will bring the following benefits:

Form Time at the start and end of each day – we currently run a 30 minute morning form but no afternoon form time. We believe that a form time at the end of the school day will allow form tutors the opportunity to meet with their form group and pick up on any pastoral/academic issues that may have arisen during the day and feed back to parents where necessary.

Extra time in the morning for students to get to school on time – we have a large number of students who travel significant distances to school on a daily basis and their punctuality is affected by the reliability of the local transport service. By delaying the start of the day by 15 minutes we hope to alleviate some of the pressure for students and their families in getting to school on time. An 8.45am start time will also bring us more into line with commissioning and local schools.

Reduce issues at the end of the school day – on occasions we are contacted by commissioning schools (home schools of students) as EBN students congregate at the gates of their schools. While often not causing issues, this is not ideal and a finish time of 2.45pm will go some way to alleviating this issue. Based on the current bus timetables the change to the end of the school day will not cause any significant issues for students catching the public transport bus.

Maintaining curriculum time alongside these changes – it is important to note that these changes will not mean any changes to the delivered curriculum time within the school and the students will still have the same number of hours of taught time in all their subjects.

We believe very much the small adjustments to the school day detailed in this letter will benefit the students and their families, staff and commissioning schools and would like to hear any views from all stakeholders on the proposed changes. For this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending any comments to me via email marked F.A.O. EBN 2 Head Teacher at enquiry@ebnfs.org, by post at **EBN Academy 2, 10 High Street, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 7PR**.

The information in this letter has also been sent to staff, Trustee's and Local Governor, Commissioning schools and the Local Authority. We will make sure we all work together so that there is minimal disruption. The consultation will open: Tuesday 14th November 2023 and will close: Midday Monday 27th November 2023. Once the consultation is over, we will consider whether to introduce these changes for January 2024. We will release the results of the consultation by 11th December 2023 and communicate the outcome to all our stakeholders via letter and the academy website. If approved the changes will come into effect from 8th January 2024.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mat Baldwin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Matthew Baldwin
Executive Head Teacher