

Our Ref: SHN/RH/Admin/Consultation re change of school day 2019

Date: 14 February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Consultation – proposed changes to the timing of the school day

Ambition is central to our school ethos and this can only be realised when students experience lessons that are increasingly engaging, challenging and personalised to needs. Planning this to the high standard we believe our students deserve, requires both more time than is currently available, and also the opportunity for groups of teachers to work collaboratively over extended periods of time.

In order to achieve this, the school is proposing to finish earlier, at 2:05pm every Wednesday from 19 June 2019.

The additional time this releases will be used by teachers to collaboratively plan lessons, review and act upon assessment data and enhance their subject knowledge. In addition, we aim to use this opportunity to extend the different ways in which parents can meet with their children's teachers.

Aside from the ambitions we have for Crofton School, it is also important to recognise that the teaching profession currently faces well-publicised national challenges around workload, recruitment and retention. We cannot simply ask our staff to work longer hours. Innovative solutions are required that will allow our school to realise its ambitions for students, whilst being sensitive to the national context in which all schools exist.

We have researched a number of different ways in which other high performing schools are addressing these challenges. A common factor amongst many of these schools is that they have made additional time available for staff to develop their curriculum. There are a number of different models these schools have used to achieve this. We have analysed these and decided a single shortened day each week will be the most effective way to implement this, whilst taking account of the needs of parents and carers. More detail on our rationale and research into this can be found in a briefing document we have recently shared with the school Governors, available [here](#) or on request from the school reception. In addition I have attached to this letter some 'Frequently Asked Questions' we have compiled based on questions we have been asked so far, which I hope you will find useful.

We have already shared this proposal with staff and governors, sought their views and refined our proposal in the light of this feedback. The Governors have agreed to move forward with this plan in principle and we are now seeking feedback from parents ahead of a final decision by Governors on whether or not to implement this proposal. This decision will be made at the Full Governing Body meeting on Wednesday 27 March, and we will communicate their decision as soon as possible after this.

If you would like to submit any feedback about this proposed change or have any questions or queries, please contact me either via the school reception or by email (school@croftonschool.co.uk), with the subject line 'Shortened Day Proposal' by 10am on Monday 25 March. Alternatively we will be holding a consultation meeting at 6pm on Monday 18 March which you are welcome to attend.

We all want students to benefit from lessons that are more ambitious, engaging, and better suited to their needs. I firmly believe this proposal will be an important step towards achieving this, helping us to deliver the exceptional education your children deserve, and I look forward to your feedback.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Harrison
Headteacher