



18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Asymmetric School Day Consultation

Following the recent consultation on the asymmetric school week, I am writing to inform you that the governing body have voted to make changes to the timings of the school day **from September 2020**, with an amendment to the times of the original proposal.

The revised and agreed timings will be:

	School Starts	Formal Learning Ends
Monday – Thursday	8:40am	3:10pm
Friday	8:40am	1:15pm

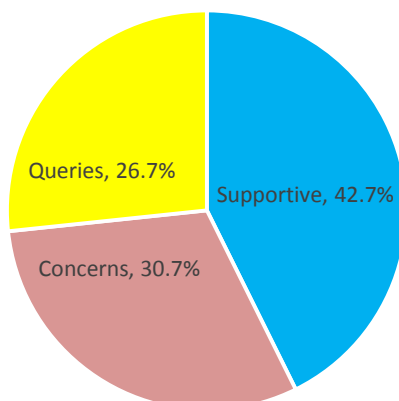
As always, buses will depart 10 minutes after the end of the school day.

Consultation Responses

Below is a record of the responses received during the consultation process.

	Supportive	Concerns	Queries	Total	% of group	% of responses
Staff	5	16	6	27	12.5	36.0
Parents/Carers	18	2	3	23	2.3	30.6
Pupils	9	5	11	25	2.5	33.3
Community	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32	23	20	75		

Consultation Responses



Thank you to all who contributed to the consultation process.

Headteacher
Prifathro
Ms C-A Morris

Deputy Headteacher
Dirprwy Bennaeth
Mr D John

Assistant Headteachers
Penaethiaid Cynorthwyol
Mrs E Kedward
Mr J Letten

Strategic Leaders
Arweinwyr Atrategol
Mrs M Griffiths
Miss J Reynolds
Mr S Peters
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Supportive Comments

- "I think it would be good to finish early on a Friday as every School is doing it anyway."
- "I think this is a really good step towards extra family time and weekends can begin that little earlier. If you were going away for the weekend or taking part in activities."
- "I think this is a very good idea."
- "I should imagine it took much time to assemble this schedule - doubtless it won't be able to please all, however if nothing is tried the answer is always "no". I feel an early finish at the end of the week will be most beneficial - eventually we all get used to change... roll on September."
- "The school week may not be so daunting to many children prompting them to put in more effort."

Concerns/Queries

- "Only concern would be that the letter states the buses leave at 1pm, but learning doesn't finish until 1pm therefore risk of [pupils] missing the bus."
Response: The buses will leave 10 minutes after formal learning ends. This will be at 3:20pm Mon-Thurs and 1:25pm Fri given the revised times of the day.
- "They have enough holidays without finishing half day on Friday, with having ASPIRE in class time they're losing out on class and education time."
Response: Young people have more and more pressures thrust upon them than ever before. This would allow them time to take a moment for themselves during their busy lives to reduce stress and improve mental health/wellbeing. With the scheduled activities pupils will be able to remain on-site.
- "I am concerned about how the school bus timetable and in particular the DALE school bus schedule is to be reconfigured to meet the requirements of the new timetable."
Response: We will be discussing with transport facilitators to make arrangements which will work for the new structure. Revised bus times will be issued in due course.
- "Cluster schools already follow this pattern which will make it difficult to drop off and pick up at two schools due to the times."
Response: Our cluster schools start later than 8:40am. Pupils will be allowed to be on-site from approx. 8am for breakfast club. We are not changing the end time of the school day Mon-Thurs. An end time of 1:15pm on Fri should allow time to move between sites to collect siblings. Should this cause a problem for parents, pupils are welcome to remain on-site at the end of the school day until the end of scheduled activities.
- "Employers are not following these times so it will be difficult to pick up on a Friday."
Response: Pupils will be able to remain on-site on a Friday until the end of scheduled activities.
- "Generally, we are in support of the asymmetric week but would struggle without a provision until 3pm on a Friday (like that at Coastlands)."
Response: There will be a menu of activities planned which pupils will be able to access.
- "MHCP finishes at 12:15pm on Fridays meaning that parents from outside town have to wait around for 45 minutes if they have children in primary and secondary school."
Response: MHCP have the facility for pupils to remain on-site during lunchtime until 12:45pm on Friday. With travelling time this would significantly reduce the waiting time.

Taking all the consultation views and questions into consideration, the governing body made the decision to alter the school day timings, with an amendment to the original proposal which will commence in **September 2020**. The Staff Committee will now consult with pupils to decide on the nature of the activities for Wellbeing Friday and draw up a menu of options. Once this is finalised, an indication of numbers of pupils who intend to remain in school on the Friday afternoons will be asked for in order for us to ensure we are adequately resourced to meet demand.

If you have any further questions regarding the new timings do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Peters
Strategic Leader for Curriculum and Timetable