

21 June 2021

Dear parents, carers, staff and community stakeholders of The Dukeries Academy

Re: Outcome of consultation on proposed curriculum changes and the change to the Academy Day

I write to you in response to the consultation on proposed curriculum changes and the change to the Academy Day that we conducted earlier this year. Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thank you to all those that contributed your views. They were overwhelmingly positive and below I will detail the changes that we will implement from September 2021.

TDA Core Curriculum Entitlement

Our Core Curriculum Entitlement will remain much the same, with a renewed focus on powerful knowledge and mastery of skills. We will continue to utilise the most effective evidence informed approaches to:

- ensure all lessons are delivered by subject expert teachers and teaching is consistently of the highest quality
- provide clarity for students and other stakeholder regarding the expected knowledge students should learn
- further develop assessment and feedback approaches to ensure students understand their strengths and know how to improve
- specifically teach students' strategies to help students become better learners by understanding how they learn (metacognition) and improving their memory and recall techniques
- building on national and international best practice, from the COVID pandemic, to provide a sophisticated Blended Learning offer for our students

The Core Curriculum Entitlement will be further enhanced by wider knowledge which incorporates the context of the academy and the specific subject expertise of the staff.

TDA Extended Curriculum: Extend, Enrich, Prepare (EEP) Programme

Our EEP will be introduced as an addition to our curriculum offer at TDA. We thank you for all your support towards us implementing this, and it was great to hear some of your fantastic ideas around establishing cultural capital, introducing lessons on finance and life skills, and continuing to embed practice that focuses on students' wellbeing, both mentally and physically.

Each year group will encounter three Extended Curriculum sessions each week: Extend, Enrich, Prepare.

Extend: These are year-long activities which allow students to complete an extended activity in a specific area. These activities allow our young people to focus on a specific talent or interest, in detail, demonstrating a clear commitment and linking to our value of Integrity. Examples of Extend activities could include:

- Academy Students' Union

- The Duke of Edinburgh Award
- First Story: creative writing
- Academy Performance/Show
- TDA Media Newspaper/Radio/Podcasts/Vlog/BBC News Report
- Learning a new language eg Japanese

Enrich: These are shorter activities designed to link into each of our six Enrichment Strands. These activities develop essential character traits which will support of confident, resilient and happy and young people, who will go on to live successful lives. These activities are linked to our values of Integrity and Ambition. Enrich activity strands could include areas such as:

- Health and Well-being: (Sports, Mindfulness, Fitness, Mental Health)
- Creativity: (Art clubs, Art therapy, Modelling Club, Clay sculpture)
- Performance: (Introduction to Yoga, Mindfulness, Drama)
- Academic Challenge: (Debate Club, STEAM activities)
- Social Action: (Charity work, community action)
- Life Skills: (Finance, DIY, Careers, CV Writing)

Prepare: Students are guided to a Prepare activity that promotes scholarship and academic development, linking into our values of Ambition and Excellence. Examples of Prepare activities could include:

- Study Hall – Silent revision, additional study and reading opportunities
- Targeted intervention
- 1 to 1 and small groups support
- Online learning
- Study/memory skills and techniques

The new Academy Day (from September 2021):

- Monday and Friday. Day starts at 08:40 and finish at 14:45

Period	Time
Coaching Teams	08.40 – 09.00
Period 1	09.00 – 10.00
Period 2	10.00 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.15
Period 3	11.15 – 12.15
Period 4	12.15 – 13.15
Lunch	13.15 – 13.45
Period 5	13.45 – 14.45

- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - Students begin at 08:40 and finish at 15:35

Period	Time
Coaching	08.40 – 09.00
Period 1	09.00 – 10.00
Period 2	10.00 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.15
Period 3	11.15 – 12.15
Period 4	12.15 – 13.15
Lunch	13:15 – 13.45
Period 5	13:45 – 14.45
EEP Programme	14:45 – 15:35

We will provide bus timetable details before the summer break.

There were some concerns raised about returning our lunchtime to 30 minutes. To address this concern, we are introducing an additional, new, serving and seating area to ensure that all students can promptly get food and have time for a break before lessons begin again.

I thank you once again for all your responses, and your continued support of the Academy as we continue on our journey from good to great.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Emily Rosaman
Vice Principal