

28th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation on the School Week and Day Length from Sept 2024

Just under a year ago, The Abbey School joined The Howard Academy Trust. Over this period, we have been aligning our systems and policies to match those of other schools in the Trust, and are now towards the end of this process.

One of the final areas of cooperation that we have been looking at is the structure of our school week and day length. In other schools in the Trust, students finish school early on a Friday, instead of the Thursday that has been the established tradition The Abbey School. Trust leaders would like us to switch our early finish to Fridays so that staff across all of the schools in the organisation can collaborate at these times to improve outcomes for students.

Today, we have published a consultation paper on our school website outlining these proposals from September 2024. The consultation process will take place over six weeks and will involve us listening to parents, carers, staff, students, transport firms, other schools and members of the wider community. Our intention is to make sure that whatever we do does not create unnecessary stress or burden for individuals or groups that we work with. Equally, we want to do whatever we can to ensure that we are offering the very best education to our young people. We propose finishing school at 2pm every Friday, and providing the opportunity for any students that need it, to stay behind to the normal school finishing time under supervised study conditions. This will mirror the arrangement we launched when we introduced the early finish on a Thursday, over a decade ago. This recognises that there may be some of children that need to wait for public transport at the normal time.

In making, the proposed changes we will make some minor adjustment to the start of the school day; with it beginning five minutes earlier than currently. This is to mitigate against lost teaching time.

Our consultation runs from Thursday 28th March for a six week period. Should you wish to share your thoughts or views, please email consultation@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk.

Regards,



Dr Rowland Speller
Headteacher