



Tuesday 22 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Proposed introduction of Elective Programme and changes to Academy operating hours

At Brooke Weston Academy we are always looking to provide the best possible education for every young person that comes to our Academy. We routinely benchmark our offer against other outstanding schools across the region to ensure we are looking forward and identifying opportunities to improve the experience we offer to students, maintain our high quality of education, and exceed the expectations of national, statutory requirements.

We have identified an area that we believe can be made stronger – namely our wider curriculum offer. We feel we can provide all our students with the chance to participate in, and enjoy, an exciting programme of additional learning, creative and enrichment activities which we will call our Elective Programme.

Our planned curriculum changes allow us to offer our young people wider and deeper opportunities for personal development and enrichment – critical parts of any young person's growth, promoting the development of essential life skills and personal confidence that are key to success in adult life.

While we already offer some after school clubs, our current school timetable means that many students who need to use buses are unable to take advantage of these opportunities. We want to ensure that every student has access to everything we can offer, and we guarantee equity for all.

The proposed Brooke Weston Academy Elective Programme will offer a variety of programmes under the following themes: Arts, Cultural and Physical.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will have the chance to attend 4 elective programmes and a core PSHE programme during each school year. Students in Years 11 and 13 will also do this, but where appropriate their elective programmes will focus on exam preparation, study skills and key subject gap sessions across the year and in terms 3 and 4 for all students.

It is crucially important that we can recruit and retain exceptional staff in our pursuit of excellence. That requires ensuring our staff feel fulfilled in their work, can focus on improving and delivering best practice in our classrooms, whilst being able to maintain their work-life balance. The proposed changes also assist us in meeting this aim whilst retaining the unique culture and high standards that are the hallmark of Brooke Weston.

Therefore we are consulting with our parents, students and staff on changes to the school day that will help us to deliver the Elective Programme, protect the key features that make Brooke Weston Academy distinctive, and maintain the very highest academic standards.

An example of the proposed changes – what will it mean for you and your child?

A key change that we are consulting on is the start and finish times of the school day, along with the addition of the elective programme seen below:

- The official end to the school day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday will become 3.25pm (currently 4.05pm). Wednesday will be the elective day and to accommodate this the end of the school day will be 4.00pm
- Students will continue to be taught 25 lessons each week, plus an additional Elective Programme session
- Students will be able to remain at the school to use the library and study areas until 5.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with a late bus on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday as before

We are finalising the timetable, but an example of how we could achieve this and the elective programme is below:

- Begin the school day at the same time – with the building open for students as they arrive on buses from 8.00am
- The dedicated school transport service will continue to run in line with the new school day times
- Reduce the number of tutor times
- Add the elective session on a Wednesday after period 5, and on that day the school will end at 4.00pm
- Move to 60-minute lessons on Wednesdays to accommodate the Elective Programme session to take place
- Move to 70-minute lessons (currently 75-minutes) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

School Day timings	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School Opens	8:00 – 8:35	8:00 – 8:35	8:00 – 8:35	8:00 – 8:35	8:00 – 8:35
Period 1 (15 min)	8:35 – 10:00	8:35 – 10:00	8.35 – 9:50	8:35 – 10:00	8:35 – 10:00
Assembly / Tutor time	10:00 – 10:15	10:00 – 10:15	9:50 – 10:15	10:00 – 10:15	10:00 – 10:15
Period 2	10:15 – 11:25	10:15 – 11:25	10:15 – 11:15	10:15 – 11:25	10:15 – 11:25
Period 3 (30 min lunch)	11:25 – 13:05	11:25 – 13:05	11:15 – 12:15	11:25 – 13:05	11:25 – 13:05
Period 4 (30 min lunch Wed)	13:05 – 14:15	13:05 – 14:15	12:15 – 13:45	13:05 – 14:15	13:05 – 14:15
Period 5	14:15 – 15:25	14:15 – 15:25	13:45 – 14:45	14:15 – 15:25	14:15 – 15:25
Elective Session			14:45 – 16:00		

Sample of Electives:

Football	Science Experiments	Geography explorers	Creative writing	Eco club
Debate club	Technology group	Maths Challenge	Coding & robotics club	CCF
Engineering club	Duke of Edinburgh	Netball	Medieval History	Drama club
Spanish culture	Film club	Choir	Sign Language club	Anime Club

Seeking your views and feedback on the plans

We believe these proposals represent an exciting new chapter for Brooke Weston Academy in which we will build upon the great foundations and legacy of the past whilst updating our offer for future generations of students.

Before finalising our plans, we welcome your views on these proposals and invite you to leave your comments on our [consultation survey](#) by Friday 29th April 2022.

Our governors will review the responses we receive from parents, staff and pupils and other stakeholders before coming to a final decision. The outcome of the consultation will be communicated during the summer term 2022.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Strydom
Principal
Brooke Weston Academy