

SST/ARA

**Principal**  
Shaun Strydom MEd

25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: Elective Programme and changes to academy timetable**

Thank you for your feedback on the proposed changes to our academy timetable. We are pleased to have received over 550 responses to the survey and greatly appreciate the time and effort that went into your comments. Overall, 76% of comments were in favour of offering an Elective Programme and as a result, we will be adopting an after-school elective session for all students on Wednesday afternoons and reducing the school day slightly.

We do not take any changes to our provision lightly and, over the last three weeks, have carefully reviewed your comments in order to make a decision we feel protects the key features that make Brooke Weston Academy special.

In particular, we know some parents were concerned about the reduction of lesson time, so we have adapted the proposal so that all lessons are now 70-minutes long. This is therefore only a 5-minute reduction in lesson time, and will mean that over their five years, students will still have an additional 833 hours of teaching compared to a typical secondary, which is equivalent to almost a full year of extra schooling. This does not include the elective which will further add to their education and development.

### **Summary of proposed changes – what will it mean for you and your child?**

The key proposed changes can be summarised as follows:

- Reduce the number of tutor times each day to one
- Establish a compulsory 60-minute Elective Programme following Lesson 5 on Wednesdays
- Move to 70-minute lessons (lessons will no longer be shorter on a Wednesday as per the original proposal, however the day will end slightly later)
- Begin the school day at the same time – with the building open for students as they arrive on buses from 8.00am
- The official end to the school day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday will become 3.30pm (currently 4.05pm)
- The official end to the school day on Wednesday will be 4.30pm
- The school transport for students on a Wednesday will be moved to allow for 4:30pm pick up
- Students will be able to remain at the school to use the library and study areas until 5.00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, with a late bus running on Tuesday and Thursday

The following timetable illustrates the new school day:

School Day timings	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Assembly / Tutor time	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55
Period 1 (15 min Break)	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20
Period 2	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30
Period 3 (30 min Lunch)	11:30 – 13:10	11:30 – 13:10	11:30 – 13:10	11:30 – 13:10	11:30 – 13:10
Period 4	13:10 – 14:20	13:10 – 14:20	13:10 – 14:20	13:10 – 14:20	13:10 – 14:20
Period 5	14:20 – 15:30	14:20 – 15:30	14:20 – 15:30	14:20 – 15:30	14:20 – 15:30
Elective			15:30 – 16:30		

It is important that our Elective Programme offers a range of varied and meaningful opportunities for our students and as such we will spend the necessary time to ensure it is of high quality, well planned and resourced. We will be looking to learn from our experiences and expand our programme as we go, and this could mean that our offer in Year 1 might look slightly different to our offer in Year 2. It is also possible that over the course of Year 1, we may change the Elective Programme and adjust Wednesday timings within the school day to accommodate this.

The new school day operating times will come into effect from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August and will continue to be gradually developed over the next few years in line with staff, parent and student feedback. We expect the Elective Programme to also start on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August but as we need to plan and ensure that it is ready and resourced, we will write to parents to confirm final arrangements later this Term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your contribution to the consultation. If you have any final comments, questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact [enquiries@brookeweston.org](mailto:enquiries@brookeweston.org)

Yours sincerely



Shaun Strydom  
Principal