

19th May 2023

Dear Families

RE: Consultation on the proposed change to the school day at Beckfoot Upper Heaton from September 2023

The government's white paper *Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child* sets out the expectation that every state-funded mainstream school must offer a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023 at the latest. At Beckfoot Trust, all of our schools have been working to extend their school day where they have fallen short of this expectation.

Increased curriculum time will have a positive impact on the learning of all students. With a longer school day, students will have more time in the classroom to acquire skills, knowledge and understanding. There will also be the opportunity for 25 minutes of time each day for a DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) session. Research tells us that children who read at least 25 minutes a day encounter 1.8 million words a year and are more likely to secure results in the top 10% of any standardised test. The new school week will have the added benefit of allowing us to move to a one-week timetable – this is something that students and staff have requested.

You will know that the best schools in the country operate a longer working week. We are highly ambitious for our school and the community we serve and therefore we embrace the government direction.

With that in mind, from September 2023 we will be making some changes to our school day. The details of the new school day are summarised below:

- The start time each day will remain unchanged, with students expected to be on site by **8.15am** at the latest, so that they can line-up with their form tutor for a positive start to their school day.
- **Monday – Thursday: the new finish time will be 3.20pm instead of 2.35pm**
- **Friday: the new finish time will be 2.25pm instead of 2.35pm**

I appreciate that these changes may affect you, in terms of childcare or working arrangements. We are working with the bus company to ensure that bus times are modified accordingly. I will contact you when we have further details.

The consultation on this change opens today and closes on Friday 2 June 2023. Responses will be considered throughout the consultation period and a final decision will be communicated to staff and families on Friday 14 July 2023.

Any feedback on these proposals can be submitted via email (info@beckfootupperheaton.org) or written copies sent in for the attention of Kirsti Greer, Executive PA to the Headteacher with the title; "Response to the consultation around the change to the length of the school day".

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Watson
CEO Beckfoot Trust
CEO: Shirley Watson

Chair of Academy Trustees: John Winkley