

Headteacher: Joel Hinchliffe

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27th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As mentioned in my introduction letter last week, I am writing to update you on some **key strategic changes to improve the provision and offer** at E-ACT Parkwood Academy.

Firstly, the academy will now **close** for the summer (to all students) on **Friday the 19th of July 2024**. This is to ensure essential training takes place for all staff before we return in September and to reward the students with a well-deserved rest, in line with other schools across the Sheffield local authority.

Secondly, the **dates students will return** to the academy in **September** are as follows:

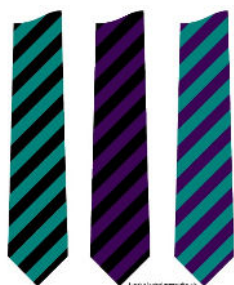
- Wednesday 4th September **for Year 7 ONLY**
- Thursday 5th September **for Years 8-11**

All other INSET days for next academic year can be found on our website.

NEW TIES

I'm excited to announce all students will **receive a FREE clip-on tie** when they return next academic year. This not only creates a sense of belonging and teamwork, but it also supports staff and the wider community to identify students when and where needed. Clip-on ties will relieve the daily hassle for students and create a sense of PRIDE and consistency in how they present.

Key Stage 3



Key Stage 4



This is an Example - ties will be allocated to specific year groups in September

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CHANGE TO SCHOOL DAY

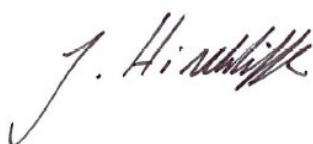
To support all members of our family we have made the decision to **alter the school day by 10 minutes**. This means **all students will be expected** at E-ACT Parkwood Academy between the hours of **8:30am and 3:00pm**. This is a change to the end of the school day from 3:10pm to 3:00pm. **Changes will come into effect from Wednesday 4th September 2024**.

This change still ensures that **we meet the Department of Education's expectation of a 32.5-hour school week**. All students will **still receive five 1 hour lessons a day**, as well as their enrichment time in the morning of 30 minutes. We have added 5 minutes to their break time (now 20 minutes instead of 15 minutes) and lunch time remains 30 minutes.

We believe that these **changes will be beneficial** to the school community and will have a **positive effect on your child's education**. This allows us to prioritise our extra-curricular and cultural capital offer (each day from 3:00pm until 4:00pm). It will also facilitate the transition home during our winter months and/or support those who pick up siblings.

The changes to the school day were overwhelmingly favoured by students in a recent survey and staff feedback was also positive. However, I appreciate that these minor changes may still raise some questions. For this reason, I warmly invite you to share any feedback that you have by sending it to info@parkwoodacademy.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Joel Hinchliffe
Headteacher

