



7 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Changes to the timing of the school day and term dates from September 2021**

Our plans for Leigh Academies Trust (LAT) to merge with Brook Learning Trust (BLT) from 1 September 2021 continue. As we mentioned in our last letter, we see this as a great opportunity for the students and staff of all the schools. Both BLT and LAT will continue to work together, and with the Department for Education (DfE) and Kent County Council (KCC), to ensure that increased size and scale, and the sharing of expertise and opportunities, will be of the greatest benefit to students and staff of BLT if the academies transfer as planned.

Recent discussions with LAT have focused on practical changes that can be made for September 2021 to allow BLT's academies to more closely align with LAT's, in order that staff can have an even greater impact on our students' learning and subsequently their progress. As a result, I am writing to you as part of a consultation process to make some changes to the school day and to inform you about changes to term dates from September 2021.

Alongside the consultation with parents and carers there will also be consultation with students and staff. The final decision on this proposal will consider the opinions of various stakeholders, including you as parents and carers. Brook Learning Trust and Hayesbrook's Academy Council have been fully briefed about the proposal and support the proposed changes.

The proposal is as follows:

1. To end the school day at 2.00pm on Wednesday, at 2.55pm on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and at 3.45pm on Thursdays (when students will take part in Enrichment - further details to follow).
2. To align the 2021-22 term dates to LAT's academy calendar.

### **Why change the school day?**

By finishing early for students on a Wednesday afternoon, our staff will be able to access LAT's Continued Professional Development (CPD) offer. This will enable our staff to access regular high quality CPD, collaborate with colleagues from across LAT's academies, and translate the theory of that professional development into high quality classroom practice.

### **Why change the academy calendar?**

In order to fully benefit from the support of LAT's central team and colleagues within their academies, it makes sense for us to align our term dates from September 2021. Term dates remain broadly unaffected, with the exception of the October half term, which will begin a week later than previously published, but will continue to be a two-week break. A copy of LAT's term dates is attached.

If you would like to express a view on the proposed changes to the school day please contact us by email ([info@brooklearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@brooklearningtrust.org.uk)) or letter (at the address below) by Friday 28 May 2021. A decision will be made by Friday 11 June 2021 and we will write to you again after this date to let you know the final decision.

I hope you can see the clear rationale we have for considering these adjustments and the impact they can have for our students and their learning. I trust that you will support these proposals as part of our work to continue to improve the quality of provision of education at The Hayesbrook School.

Yours sincerely,



Nic Taylor  
Interim CEO  
Brook Learning Trust



Seb St John  
Head of School  
The Hayesbrook School