

20 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Last year, to accommodate more appointments during our Parent Information Evenings, we introduced early closures on those days. This was in addition to the Open Evenings, which historically we have always closed early for. This was overwhelmingly successful, and we thank you for supporting us to balance our commitment to students, staff and you as parents/carers.

In a letter last year, we communicated why this was an important step. These are outlined below:

**Why did we make these changes?**

- We want to improve our communication with parents around student progress. Parent Information Evenings are integral to this priority.
- Reduce waiting lists - Many teachers teach more than one class in a year group; the original timings did not allow for enough appointment slots.
- Many parents have requested earlier appointment times – a 3pm start will facilitate times around the school run.
- Staff directed time considerations – Our staff have contracted hours which need to be considered whenever we make changes to an academy day. When time is added, we need to reduce directed time elsewhere.

As with last year, on the days of early closure, students will have a slightly shortened tutor time to allow for four full lessons. Students who receive free school meals will be able to pick up lunch at the end of the day.

Included in this letter is a list of key dates of open evenings and parent information evenings. We will communicate about each event closer to the time.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you to the academy soon.

Yours faithfully



**Lucy-Beth Heighton**

**Vice Principal**

**Key dates for your diary:**

**Open evenings:**

Year 5/6 Open Evening – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September (5-8pm) – Early Closure (1pm)

Post-16 Open Evening - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October (5-7pm) – Early closure (1pm)

**Parent Information Evenings:**

Post-16 Parent Information Evening – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November (4.30-7pm) – No change to the academy day

Year 7 Parent Information Evening – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November (3-7pm) – Early closure (1pm)

Year 11 Parent Information Evening – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December (3-7pm) – Early closure (1pm)

Year 10 Parent Information Evening – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January (3-7pm) – Early closure (1pm)

Year 9 Parent Information Evening/Options Fair – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February (4.00-7pm) – Early closure (1pm)

Year 8 Parent Information Evening – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March (3-7pm) – Early closure (1pm)