

20th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Staff and employer partners,

Consultation on the length of the school day at LDE UTC

I would like your views on our proposal to change the finish time of the school day from 17:00 to 16:00, starting from September 2018.

Currently our school day finishes at 17:00, whilst we recognise that the longer day was designed to prepare students for the world of work, we also recognise that the work place is changing, and the traditional 9-5 working hours are becoming more flexible with different timings and working from home arrangements.

Also, from our recent surveys we have found that both students and staff are finding the longer school day difficult to manage. Our students are feeling tired due to the longer day, are missing out on early evening community activities and feel they have less time to revise for their exams outside of the school contact hours. Similarly, our staff are feeling that having student contact time up until 17:00 has led to their preparation, marking and feedback work now being completed even later in the evenings, where on average our staff are completing 2-3 hours extra work at home each evening. Teachers are also reporting that some students are finding it hard to focus during the later lessons.

In order to achieve a shorter day without a reduction in teaching time, I am proposing the following changes:

- Shortening the school day from 08:50 – 17:00 to 08:50 – 16:00
- Increasing session times from 50 minutes per lesson to 60 minutes per lesson
- Reducing the number of sessions from 8 to 6 per day
- Reducing morning break from 20 minutes to 15 minutes
- Reducing lunch time from 50 minutes to 45 minutes
- Removing the afternoon break
- Allowing students to complete independent study work at home as well as at school
- Replacing the compulsory societies session after school on a Wednesday with an optional after school societies from 16:00 – 17:00

Please see below, the proposed new timetable starting from September 2018 and for comparison purposes this year's current timetable.

Proposed school day from September 2018							Current school day								
Times	Activity	M	T	W	T	F	Times	Activity	M	T	W	T	F		
0850-0900	briefing	10	10	10	10	10	0850-0900	briefing	10	10	10	10	10		
0900-1000	1	60	60	60	60	60	0900-0950	1	50	50	50	50	50		
1000-1100	2	60	60	60	60	60	0950-1040	2	50	50	50	50	50		
1100-1115	break	15	15	15	15	15	1040-1100	break	20	20	20	20	20		
1115-1215	3	60	60	60	60	60	1100-1150	3	50	50	50	50	50		
1215-1315	4	60	60	60	60	60	1150-1240	4	50	50	50	50	50		
1315-1400	Lunch	45	45	45	45	45	1240-1330	lunch	50	50	50	50	50		
1400-1500	5	60	60	60	60	60	1330-1420	5	50	50	50	50	50		
1500-1600	6	60	60	60	60	60	1420-1510	6	50	50	50	50	50		
							1510-1530	break	20	20	20	20	5		
							1530-1615	7	45	45	45	45	30		
							1615-1700	8	45	45	45	45			
Teaching time		360	360	360	360	360	1800	Teaching time		390	345	345	390	330	1800
Contact time		10	10	10	10	10	50	Contact time		10	55	55	10	10	140
Breaks		60	60	60	60	60	300	Breaks		90	90	90	90	75	435
Total time		430	430	430	430	430	2150	Total time		490	490	490	490	415	2375

The consultation for these proposed changes opens today, Friday 20th April 2018, and closes on Friday 18th May 2018. Responses will be considered throughout the consultation period and a final decision will be communicated on Friday 6th July 2018 after the LDE UTC board of directors have made their decision. If the proposals are agreed, it will allow a period of almost 8 weeks before the new arrangements come into operation. Feedback on the proposals should be completed via our online survey which can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#) or from a link on the front page of our website. WWW.LDEUTC.co.uk

I look forward to your feedback and thank you for your interest and support with this consultation.

Yours faithfully



Geoffrey Fowler
Chief Executive