

25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Parents and Carers of TQEA students

Dear Parents and Carers

### Curriculum 2021, End of Term and Arrangements for the new term starting in September

At TQEA we want to inspire the best in all of our learners by offering an ambitious curriculum with outstanding curricular provision and educational experiences. Our Curriculum 2021 has been designed for launch in September to maximise academic success, promote tolerance and celebrate diversity and build character in all of our young people.

Our vision for our new Curriculum 2021 is that it will be knowledge rich and promote deep and powerful knowledge (Young, 2014) and will ensure that all are exposed to the “best of what has been thought and said” in the canon of subjects that students study (Arnold, 1869 & National Curriculum 2014). By doing so we will strive to develop subject and skill mastery. In doing this we are also developing our extra-curriculum offer and the rich cultural experiences that students will participate in during their 5 years at TQEA. This will be in order to develop our core character traits of Pride, Resilience, Endeavour and Kindness which will serve our young people as they make their mark on the wider world.

**Core Curriculum Entitlement** - Every student at TQEA will receive a core curriculum entitlement. This is a curriculum which is designed by expert professionals and which will be delivered by highly trained, expert subject teachers. The intent and implementation of that core curriculum has been influenced by the most effective educational research approaches to:

- Teaching pedagogy
- Knowledge organisers
- Assessment & feedback
- Memory & metacognition
- Using technology for home learning and in class learning following on from the lessons of teaching in the co-vid lockdowns
- Key employability skills of oracy, literacy, writing, problem solving and reasoning.

**XTra** - As part of our character passport accreditation students will be offered a wide variety of curricular opportunities to attend to develop their specific talents and areas of interest. In doing so they will demonstrate our character trait of resilience and endeavour. Examples of Xtra activities could include:

- Musical Theatre
- Robotics
- Book Club
- Business & Enterprise
- Engineering Club
- Journalism & Writing Course
- DJ Club
- Learning a new language

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**The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy**

“We Can and We Will”

- The Duke of Edinburgh Award

**Life** – The core strand underpinning our ambition in Curriculum 2021 is for students to choose healthy lifestyles and develop the essential attributes to lead a “Life Well Lived”. This will help our young people to go on to live happy and successful lives. These activities will also be accredited within our character passport. Examples of the Life activities strand could include:

- Sporting Activities.
- Yoga & Mindfulness.
- Musical Performance.
- Creative activities such as Art and Food.
- Charity and Social Action.
- Life Skills and Careers.

**Prep** – Students will be guided to undertaking Prep activities which could include:

- Reading Club.
- Intervention Sessions.
- Homework Club.
- Xtra Breakfast Mathematics and English Clubs.
- Revision & Retrieval Practice Training.

A Curriculum 2021 brochure of Xtra, Life and Prep activities will be made available for all parents and carers in September.

### Changes to the School Day:

In order to enable these changes to take place and to achieve the extraordinary curriculum and offer for TQEA students we consulted earlier in the year on changing the times of the day for Friday. This will enable TQEA teachers to undertake professional training to support much improved teaching and progress for students as well as providing an exciting offer of Xtra, Life and Prep opportunities.

As a result of the consultation teaching staff and parents/carers were overwhelmingly positive about a proposed change to the day on Friday. As a result, I can confirm that from September the TQEA academy days will be as follows:

### Monday to Thursday (8:45am until 3:05pm)

Period	Time	Minutes (per day)
<b>Breakfast Club</b>	From 8 am	
<b>Prep Activities</b>	8:45 am – 9:10 am	25
Period 1	9:10 am – 10:10 am	60
Period 2	10:10 am – 11:10 am	60
Break	11:10 am – 11:30 am	20
Period 3	11:30 am – 12:30 am	60
Period 4	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	60
Lunch	1:30pm – 2:05 pm	35
Period 5	2:05pm – 3:05 pm	60

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Xtra, Life and Prep activities will be running from 3:05pm until for students to gain accreditation for their character passport.

## Friday (8:45am until 2:35pm)

Period	Time	Minutes (per day)
<b>Breakfast Club</b>	From 8 am	
Period 1	8:45 am – 9:45 am	60
Period 2	9:45 am – 10:45 am	60
Break	10:45 am – 11:00 am	15
Period 3	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	60
Period 4	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	60
Lunch	1:00 pm – 1:35 pm	35
Period 5	1:35pm – 2:35 pm	60

### Buses:

Warwickshire Schools' Transport have been informed of the Friday early finish and have organised for buses to collect TQEA students accordingly. Stagecoach are also aware of the changes, they are currently making changes to all of their services and routes following the difficulties of the pandemic, however they are not publishing their new timetables until August. Whilst they are mindful of our school times it is a public service that has always been tailored to the wider community therefore, parents and carers of students who pay to use stagecoach buses should be mindful that changes are planned and to look out for the new times that will be published towards the end of the summer.

### Considerations:

Sir Kevan Collins who was the government's education recovery tsar was clear that the wider curriculum offer was such an important aspect of children's recovery post-pandemic. We are going to be guiding students to avail themselves of the Xtra, Life and Prep offer, to build their character passport and to gain a wider set of skills and an appreciation of life.

In the consultation period a minority of parents and carers raised concerns which we have listened to and reacted to. The prime concern was the availability of buses and we have sought to ensure that bus services will continue as normal. Some parents and carers raised the point that teaching time might be lost, but I can confirm that the number of hours in the core curriculum teaching entitlement remains the same. A point was raised that a finish on Friday of 2:15 pm might be considered too early and we have reached a decision to finish at a later time of 2:35pm.

What is important to note is that we are offering a rich offer of activities for all students to extend their day from 3:05 pm to 4:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. We want all students to engage with this offer. Finally, some concerns were raised about lunch being reduced by 5 minutes per day. The issues were around the ability for students to be served and to eat in the time. We are having discussions with Chartwells, our Catering Service, about ensuring we have the staff and the serving points to reduce serving times and we are purchasing more tables and chairs to improve the dining experience for every child.

With Curriculum 2021 and our Prep, Life and Xtra sessions we are ambitiously striving for the best for every child at TQEA. Our curriculum is focused on transforming lives for our students. Our mission is that every TQEA student will leave the academy being able to compete globally in their chosen career and will make a positive contribution to their families and their community. All in all to live a life well lived.

*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire" – William Butler Yeats*

## End of the Summer Term –

Please be reminded that the school year finishes on Wednesday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 1.05pm.

Buses will run at their current usual times throughout the day. We understand the 48 will leave local stops at approximately 1.14pm, and the 766 to Grendon for Baddesley will go at approximately 1.34pm. The 766 goes from the bus station in town and students will need to make their way there at the end of school if the 766 is their usual mode of transport.

Some taxis may collect earlier if requested, please check (well in advance of the last day of term) to see whether your child's taxi will be picking them up at 1.05pm or whether you need to collect them.

As we have no formal information for any school travel, **please ensure you have independently checked** your own child's travel arrangements for the day and if necessary make arrangements for them to get home. If you wish your child to remain at school on that day, fully supervised until 3:05pm, please contact Jo Bickley via [j.bickley@tqea.org.uk](mailto:j.bickley@tqea.org.uk) and she will make arrangements for you.

It has been a challenging year for our students and staff, I'd like to thank all of our Parents and Carers for your support during this unprecedented time. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or thought.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Harding', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Mr Neil Harding  
Principal  
The Queen Elizabeth Academy