

September 18th 2020

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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing with regards to some temporary changes to our school day, to update you with dates for staff development days and to address car parking at the Academy.

Staggered finish to the Academy day:

As promised, we are continually reviewing our procedures around COVID safety for students, parents/carers and staff. In order to improve dismissal at the end of the school day and to avoid areas of congestion, we are introducing a staggered finish for some year groups. Each year group will continue to exit from separate locations. This is a temporary measure while we are operating under the current COVID framework.

From Monday 21st September, dismissal times will be as follows:

Year 7: 3.00pm exit by side Darwin path

Year 8: 2.55pm exit by Student Services

Year 9: 2.50pm exit by Student Services

Year 10: 3.00pm exit through Sports Hall

Year 11: 3.00pm exit through Keynes

Year 12 & 13 3.00pm exit through Community Entrance

Upcoming Staff Development Days

4th December 2020

4th January 2021

12th March 2021

1st July 2021

Parking

Unfortunately, this is an ongoing issue which continues to pose huge problems for all concerned. At the end of every school day we seem to have an excessive amount of parents/ carers using the car parks in a very dangerous manner, parking irresponsibly in Marlborough Road (which is also an access road to the hospital) and also potentially endangering the safety of our students who are exiting the Academy. Added to this is the ongoing number of complaints from our local community and neighbours.

Can I please ask you, on the grounds of Health and Safety, to follow the guidance below with regards to where you can park and who can have access to which car park.

Instructions:

Do not use the North car park (closest to the Great Lines and the main entrance of the Academy) at the end of the school day unless you have a disabled parking badge or have a permit from Cami Debont in the Eliot Centre to do so. The North car park is used by the mini buses that transport students from the Eliot Centre and the entrance to the car park is the main thoroughfare for students walking down Marlborough Road. Allowing cars to enter and exit this car park causes congestion on the pavement and leads to students stepping into the road.

We also ask that you do not park on the entrances to either car park as this causes an obstruction and is unsafe for our students. Likewise, please do not 'double park' as it stops the flow of traffic and forces students and staff to have to move between vehicles.

Do not stop on Marlborough Road to drop off or collect students. Again, this is causing unnecessary congestion and is unsafe for our students. Further, Marlborough Road is a route to and from the hospital for ambulances. Unfortunately, we have had instances where ambulances, with lights on, are not able to get through because of people stopping traffic to collect students.

Lastly, I unfortunately, need to point out that we will not tolerate abuse or aggressive behaviour towards staff who are supporting students by controlling the flow of traffic. Any such abuse will result in a ban from site, including car parks.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Jen Robertson
Principal

